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6 detainees escape from San Juan jail

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Teen kills 8, self in mall in Omaha, Nebraska

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GMA briefs Queen Elizabeth II on RP economy

SPORTS / A27
Mountain bike's downhill rider Joey Barba nails RP's 1st SEA Games gold

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, December 7, 2007 ★★ 17 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 362 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Jalosjos may be home free by Dec. 16

By Norman Bordadora, Leila B. Salaverria and Julie M. Aurelio

FORMER REP. ROMEO JALOSJOS, WHO was convicted 10 years ago of raping a minor, could be eligible for release before Christmas, the chaplain of the New Bilibid Prison said yesterday.

Authorities at the Department of Justice, however, were not so sure, saying they were still reviewing a previous computation of how much time the former

JALOSJOS/ A10

Activists of 2 generations mourn death of 'Sir Nic'

By Volt Contreras

ACTIVISTS FROM TWO GENERATIONS—those who survived fighting the Marcos dictatorship and those too young to have gone through that long, dark night—are in mourning for Monico Atienza, beloved comrade, inspiring professor and, perhaps, a study of what one stands to gain or

ACTIVISTS/ A21

OFW money powers peso to 41.88 vs US$

By Doris C. Dumlao

REMITTANCES FROM OVERseas Filipino workers ahead of the holidays continued to fuel the peso's steep climb as it closed at 41.88 against the US dollar yesterday.

The peso even bucked the sluggish trend in the regional currency market when it marked a new seven-and-a-half year high, peaking at 41.85 in intra-day trade.

"December is naturally a strong season for remittances," said Reevie Vergara, treasurer at the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines. "Some OFWs anticipate that the US dollar is weakening so the money budgeted for the end of the year or January is being remitted now so that beneficiaries can convert (into pesos) at a better exchange rate."

The local currency gained another 15 centavos from Wednesday's finish of 42.03 against the greenback. Currency traders said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas initially inter-

OFW MONEY/ A4

RP on top 10 list of petty bribery

BERLIN—ONE IN EVERY four people has been asked to pay a bribe to the police, and political parties and parliaments are the most tainted by corruption, a Transparency International study released on Thursday shows.

The poor are targeted for bribes in both developed and developing countries, according to the watchdog's Global Corruption Barometer 2007.

The study found that the

RP ON TOP/ A4

'No mercy for Trillanes'

GMA sets tough gov't position in London

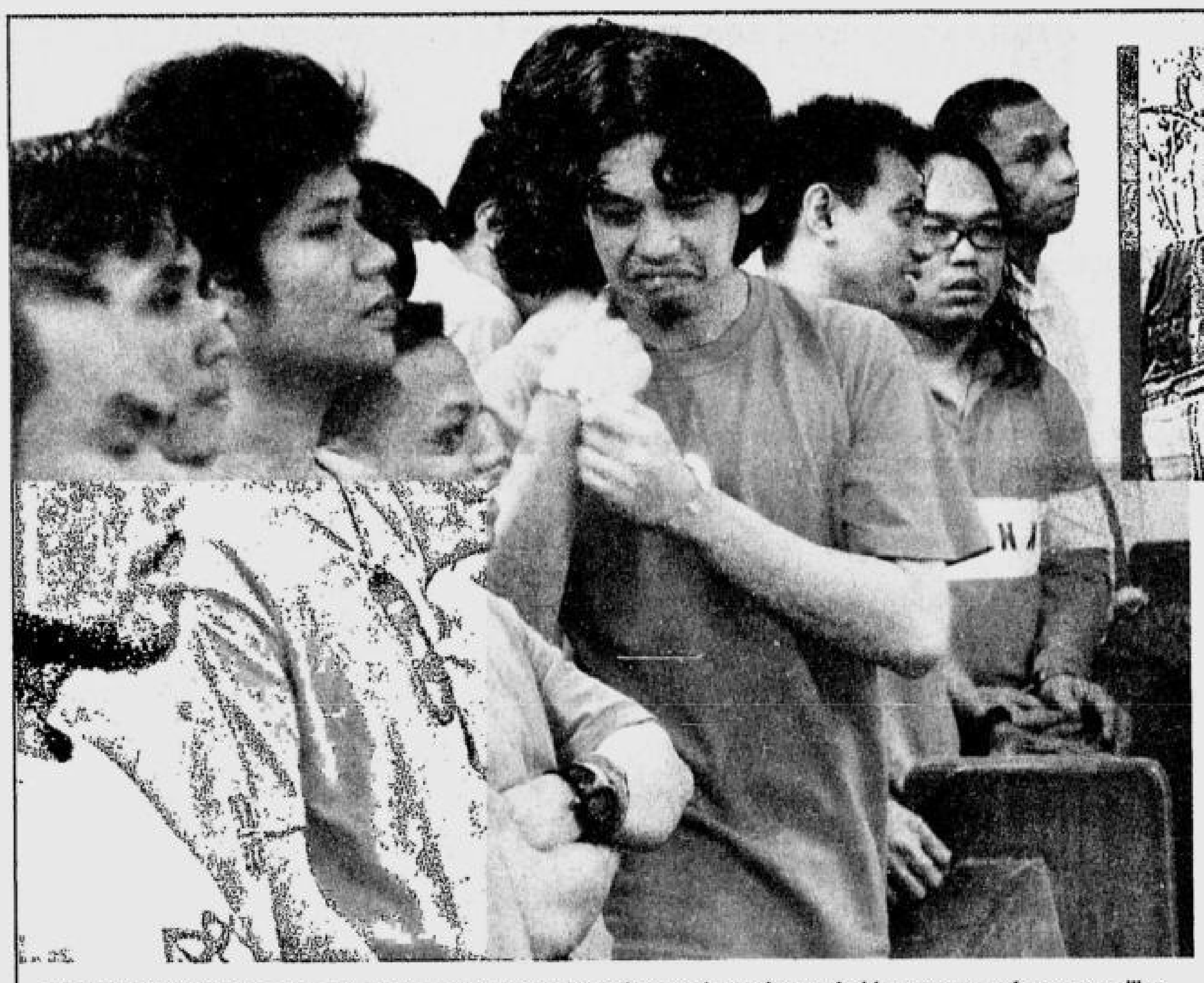
By Michael Lim Ubac

LONDON (VIA PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo said Wednesday that the government would show no mercy to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and the rebel soldiers and civilians who took over the Peninsula Manila hotel last week and called for her ouster.

"You saw it on television. It's clear that the actions of these few desperate men reveal just how out of touch they are with the hopes and dreams of the average Filipino," the President told the Filipino community here after her arrival for a two-day visit.

"The actions of these misguided men undermine each and every one of the genuine aspirations of real Filipinos. Instead of working to bring the nation together by working within our democratic process, their actions merely are fuel for selfish motives, for personal gain," she said, adding that in the end, "the

NO MERCY/ A21



DOS PALMAS 14: One of the 14 convicted Abu Sayyaf members makes a throat-slashing gesture, others are smiling, more look glum as the guilty verdict is handed down at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan on Thursday. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

OUT IN THE WILDS, they guard their captives, American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham somewhere in Basilan in 2001. PDI PHOTO

What Went Before

IN THE EARLY MORNING OF **MAY 27, 2001**, ABOUT 20 heavily armed bandits kidnapped 20 persons from the upscale Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Among the captives were property developer Reghis Romero II, 8-year-old RJ Recio and three Americans, Martin and Gracia Burnham, missionaries celebrating their wedding anniversary, and Guillermo Sobero, who was on holiday with his Filipino girlfriend.

The bandits fled with their captives in a big *"kumpit"* (speedboat).

In a radio interview the following day, the Abu Sayyaf through its spokesperson Abu Sabaya claimed responsibility

WHAT/ A10

20 life terms for each of 14 Abu kidnappers

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWENTY LIFE SENTENCES WERE YESterday meted out by a court to each of 14 Abu Sayyaf members convicted of kidnapping 20 persons from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in 2001.

This has given the Philippines the distinction of having the biggest number—now 39—of terrorists meted out long-term sentences in the world, according to Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor, the spokesperson of the Anti-Terrorism Council.

Judge Lorifel Lacap-Pahinma of Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 69 acquitted four other accused, saying there was insufficient evidence to prove their involvement in the hostage crisis that dragged on for more than a year. *(See What Went Before on this page.)*

Among the four was Satra Tilao, a sister of slain Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Aldam Tilao, alias Abu Sabaya, and the lone female accused.

Dressed in a yellow T-shirt and blue jeans, Tilao, 42, fell to her knees in relief upon hearing the verdict read out by a court clerk.

Pahinma convicted the 14 of kidnapping and serious illegal detention with ransom after a trial of more than four years.

Robert Courtney, US Department of

20 LIFE/ A10

I WANT YOU
(NOT U.S.)
TO
REDUCE EMISSIONS

UNCLE SAM under extreme pressure at **UN** climate change meeting to join global compact in Bali. AFP

Int'l scientists seek deeper, swifter cuts in emissions

NUSA DUA, INDONESIA—CLIMATE scientists from around the world urged delegates at UN-led talks in Bali yesterday to make deeper and swifter cuts to greenhouse gas emissions to prevent dangerous global warming.

In a declaration, more than 200 scientists said governments had a window of only 10 to 15 years for global emissions to peak and decline, and that the ultimate goal should be at least a 50-percent reduction in climate-warming emissions by 2050.

"We have to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions as soon as we possibly can," said Australian climatologist Matthew England, a group

INT'L SCIENTISTS/ A12

Sumilao farmers: We smell DAR betrayal

By Jerome Aning

THE HIGAONON FARMERS WHO ARE asking the government to distribute the 144-hectare former Quisumbing property in Sumilao, Bukidnon, expressed the fear yesterday that Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman would make decisions that would "grossly disappoint them."

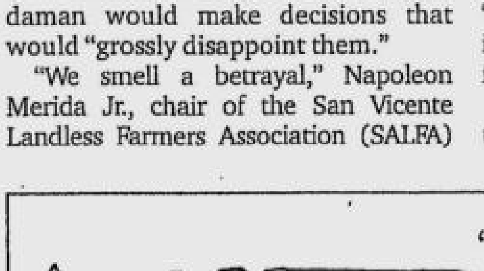
"We smell a betrayal," Napoleon Merida Jr., chair of the San Vicente Landless Farmers Association (SALFA) and leader of the marchers, said in reaction to statements made by Pangandaman following his Tuesday visit to the property now owned by San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI).

Merida said Pangandaman sounded more like a public relations man for SMFI than a Cabinet secretary, saying: "We can see through his words that he is more on the side of SMFI than of the farmers."

Earlier yesterday, the farmers and their supporters numbering around 100 marched in the rain and picketed the House of Representatives in Quezon City to call the congressmen's attention to their plight.

Apayao Rep. Elias Bulut Jr., chair of the House committee on agrarian reform, and some of its members met with the farmers and representatives of peasant groups to learn how the agrarian reform law could be improved to prevent problems like that of the Sumilao farmers.

SUMILAO/ A21



'ALA NAMANG HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AWARD, E!

'Que horror,' leftists gasp over GMA rights medal

By Jerome Aning

"¡QUE HORROR!"

This was the immediate reaction of leftwing activists when they learned that President Macapagal-Arroyo had been honored by a Spanish university for championing human rights in the Philippines.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Karapatan and the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamala-

QUE HORROR/ A13

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstoms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/12/06/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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UY! NAGKIPAG-CHIKA CHIKA OVER TEA AND COOKIES!

EZ2

16 4

SIX DIGIT

6 4 9 2 5 7

(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

2 1 0 | 6 1 2

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

11 15 26 27 47 49

₱8,000,000.00

GMA briefs Queen on RP economy

London visit caps week-long, 3-country European tour

By Michael Lim Ubac

LONDON (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo had a private meeting with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace yesterday during an overnight visit to London.

The audience with the Queen capped a week-long, three-nation European tour that took the President, members of her family and government officials to France, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Philippine officials here said Ms Arroyo was given a special accommodation by the Queen since she was in London on a working, and not a state visit.

The private meeting at Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of Britain's sovereigns since 1837, though lacking in the pomp and ceremony of official visits of European monarchs and heads of state, still evoked awe from the large delegation that accompanied the President here.

But President's party, composed of Cabinet members, businessmen and House members, did not get to meet the Queen. They were allowed entry only up to the Palace's outer courtyard. Only Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, accompanied her in the meeting with the Queen.

Wearing the full-dress uniform of red tunic and bearskin cap, a member of the Queen's Guard saluted Ms Arroyo on her arrival. This was followed by the playing of the Philippine National Anthem.

The President was met at the inner courtyard by the Queen's Equerry and Master of the Household and led to the Bow Room, one of the palace's state rooms. The 20-minute meeting took place in an adjoining room.

"This is indeed a very historic meeting between the President and the Queen of England, and this shows the importance that the United Kingdom views the relations between our two countries," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"This is her [the President's] first meeting with the Queen and this signified the importance of our bilateral relations ... where the Queen herself was the one [who] met the President," he said.

The visit will further strengthen and broaden bilateral relations and open doors for more economic opportunities, said Bunye.

He said Ms Arroyo reported on the booming Philippine economy, the consecutive quarters of growth, the strong currency, the low inflation and the inflow of foreign investments.

He said the government expects more investments to come in as a result of this visit.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo has a "template" during these foreign visits.

"She meets with the Filipino community. She gives importance to the overseas Filipino workers whom she considers our new heroes, and she tries to explore new investment opportunities, or invite investors to invest and invite those who are already in the Philippines to expand their operations," he said.

Ms Arroyo had a very tight schedule in the British capital, squeezing all scheduled meetings in the space of one day.

She arrived here Wednesday night from a four-day state visit to Spain, which generated P16.2 billion in fresh investments, and met almost immediately with the Filipino community.

She started Thursday at 8 a.m., meeting with 17 business leaders in the space of an hour, followed by a call by the Efthimos E. Mitropoulos, secretary general of the International Maritime Organization.

WHIRLWIND. President Macapagal-Arroyo addresses members of the Filipino community in London Wednesday afternoon at the Four Season's Hotel in London, shortly after arriving from the northern Basque region in Spain. In the Basque city of Vitoria (right photo), she is greeted by the president of the Basque regional government, Juan Jose Ibarretxe on her last stop in Spain. OPS-NIB/AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

▩ LOREN: NO need to be a billionaire to run /A11

▩ GOV'T BUCKS Trillanes bid to attend Senate /A8

▩ SOLONS WARY of colleague's antics on cheap medicine bill /A5

▩ UP PROF slams threat to arrest media men /A8

RP population booming – in UK

By Michael Lim Ubac

LONDON (VIA PLDT)—EUROPE AND THE rest of the developed world may be suffering from falling birth rates and aging populations, but within the Filipino community in the United Kingdom a veritable population explosion is occurring.

Six Filipino babies are born every day in this chilly kingdom composed of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This is proof that the Filipino community here is not only getting richer but growing faster as well, said Philippine Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu.

From roughly 18,000 in 1986, the Filipino population here has ballooned to more than 150,000, as of 2006.

The number has since risen to 200,000, with 5,000 employed as chefs, 18,000 as health workers and 25,000 senior caregivers, among others, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was here for an overnight visit.

Other Filipinos work in information technology, aviation, education, hotels, restaurants, casinos and the food industry.

The President, who met with about 150 members of the Filipino community on her arrival here from Spain on Wednesday night, noted that the increase in the number of Filipinos in the UK was not only due to migration from the Philippines but also because of live births.

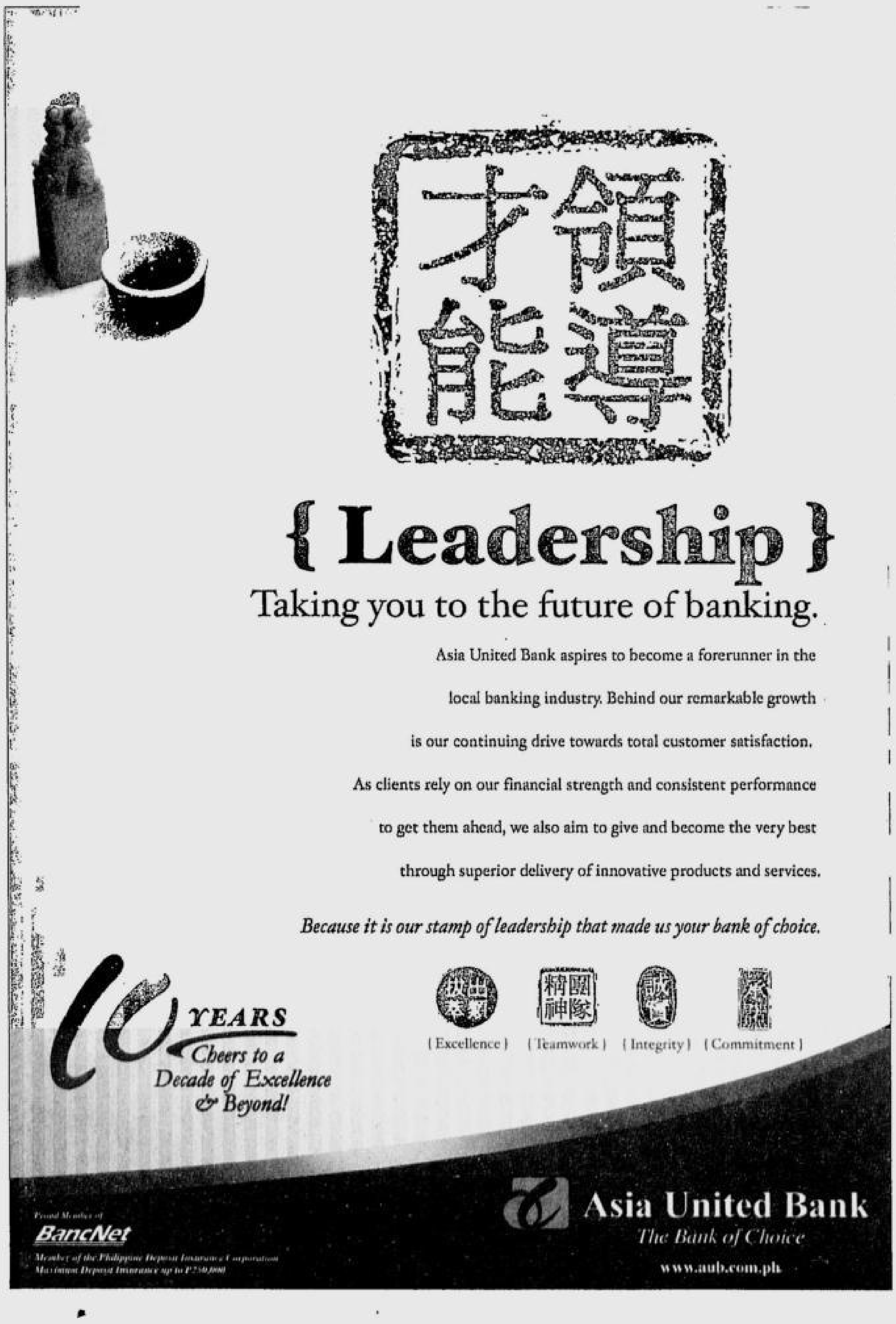
Ms Arroyo paid tribute to the overseas Filipino worker who she said was the country's "day-to-day ambassador to the UK."

She said OFWs will always be part of her agenda—to generate foreign investments, create jobs and expand economic opportunity to every province.

She explained her European trip as part of aggressively "engaging" Europe and the rest of the world "to continue to invest in our country. And our European allies are part of our history and part of our future."

"We believe in our commitment to be a true global citizen to advance the cause of human rights. Economic progress and mutual security to secure global peace," she said.

But not all is rosy for Filipino workers in this former empire that continues to be a global economic and political power.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MANILA WATER SERVICE UPGRADE IN PASIG CITY

Manila Water will undertake service improvement projects which will cause temporary water supply interruption in the following portions of Pasig City:

Schedule: 11:30 p.m., Saturday, December 8, 2007 up to 4:00 a.m., Sunday, December 9, 2007.

Affected areas:

Barangays San Antonio, J. Escriva Drive, Goldloop, Kapitolyo, Pineda and Oranbo.

Manila Water Company is advising all residents of the said areas to store enough water to supply their needs during the interruption period.

We want to serve you better.

Manila Water

These service improvement projects are necessary to ensure safe and reliable water supply for our East Zone customers.

For updates, please call our Customer Care Hotline 1627

(PDI – Dec. 7, 2007)

No lavish Christmas parties, schools told

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) yesterday warned against the holding of lavish Christmas parties in all public elementary and high schools nationwide.

Public schoolteachers should also "refrain from collecting contributions for such parties from their students," according to Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus.

School parties during the Yuletide "need not be extravagant," Lapus yesterday told the INQUIRER.

"The usual school celebrations before the Christmas break should be as simple as possible," he emphasized.

At the same time, Lapus reminded school officials to seriously cost-cutting measures when holding Christmas parties.

Yesterday, Lapus also disclosed they were holding a nationwide gift-giving program for indigent school kids on Dec. 20.

"Once again, we will have Tuloy ang Pasko ng mga Bata where all DepEd divisions nationwide will distribute Christmas presents to poor kids," he said.

This year, "the department's target is two million children," Lapus added.

The DepEd reminded public schools anew not to force students to pay school fees in the form of "voluntary contributions."

The DepEd earlier looked into the irregularity, among other complaints received by the department's Oplan Balik Eskwela or OBE. *Jerry E. Esplanada*

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See flyers for details.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit no. 1427, Series of 2007

Give yourself a Marie France Gift This Christmas!

Choose from these 4 great gifts!

5 FREE Overall Body Fat Reducer Treatments ☑ Lose 10-15 lbs.
5 FREE Tummy Flattening Treatments ☑ Reduce inches off your waistline
5 FREE Abs Sculpting Treatments ☑ Flatten your flabby abs
5 FREE Heavy Hips Minimizer Treatments ☑ Get rid of ugly saddlebags

Lose that fat for the holidays. We're making December the season to look svelte! And we're giving you an early Christmas gift with our Body Makeover Promo. Take advantage of one of these FREE treatment packages when you enroll from **December 3 to 8, 2007.** Get the body you want–and deserve! Call us today for a free consultation.

Call 894-BODY (2639)

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4445, Series of 2007

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marie france

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

Octobe15, 2007

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 13-2007

SUBJECT : Prescribing the Rules on the Advance Payment of Value Added Tax/ Percentage Tax on the Transport of Naturally Grown and Planted Timber Products

TO : All Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned

SECTION 1. Scope. – Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 and 244, in relation to Sections 106, 108, 109 and 110, all of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (Code), as amended, these Regulations are hereby promulgated to prescribe the policies and procedures for the advance payment of value added tax (VAT) on the transport of naturally grown and planted timber products for purposes of consummating a sale.

SECTION 2. Requirement to Pay advance VAT on Transport of Naturally Grown and Planted Timber Products. – The value added tax on transport of naturally grown and planted timber products shall be paid in advance by the owner/seller to the Bureau of Internal Revenue through the Authorized Agent Banks (AABs), or to the Revenue Collection Officers (RCOs) or deputized City or Municipal Treasurers, in places where there are no AABs, before transporting them from place of production or concession.

SECTION 3. Persons liable to pay the advance VAT on naturally grown and planted timber products. – Owners/ sellers of naturally grown and planted timber products, whether natural or juridical, who are holders of permits issued by, or agreements entered into with, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), are liable to pay the advance VAT on naturally grown and planted timber products harvested prior to its transport for purposes of consummating a sale. These permits and agreements are the following:

a.) Timber License agreements
b.) Industrial Forest Management Agreements
c.) Tree Farm Lease Agreements
d.) Agro- Forestry Farm Lease Agreements
e.) Private Forest Development Agreements
f.) Socialized Industrial Forest Management Program
g.) Community- Based Forest Management Program
h.) Timber Cutting/ Salvage & Related Permits

Naturally grown and planted timber products harvested from industrial tree plantations and in private lands covered by existing land titles and approved land applications are also subject to advance VAT.

SECTION 4. Basis for Determining the Amount of Advance VAT Payment.-

a.) Base price - The amount of advance payment shall be determined by applying the VAT rate of 12% on the corresponding value per cubic meter of the different species of naturally grown and planted timber products in accordance with the following schedule:

		LUZON	VISAYAS	MINDANAO
a.	Philippine Mahogany Group, Manggasinoro Group, Manggachapui Group, Narig Group, Palosapis Group, Guijo Group	1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm	1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm 1,400.00/cm	1,425.00/cm 1,425.00/cm 1,425.00/cm 1,425.00/cm 1,425.00/cm 1,425.00/cm
b.	Yakal Group	1,500.00/cm	1,500.00/cm	1,530.00/cm
c.	Apitong Group	1,260.00/cm	1,260.00/cm	1,260.00/cm
e.	Igem	1,275.00/cm	1,275.00/cm	1,275.00/cm
f.	Nato	1,000.00/cm	1,000.00/cm	1,000.00/cm
h.	Premium species, allowed cut; and	3,000.00/cm	3,000.00/cm	3,000.00/cm
i.	Lesser-Used	700.00/cm	700.00/cm	700.00/cm
	Pulpwood, chip wood and Match wood species (per cubic meter)	95.00/cm	95.00/cm	95.00/cm

b.) Subsequent price adjustment. – The valuation upon which the advance payment of VAT is computed under the preceding paragraph shall be adjusted when deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue upon prior consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

SECTION 5. Proof of Advance VAT Payment. - The concerned Revenue District Office or the duly constituted unit in its place shall issue a Certificate of Advance Payment of the VAT (Annex A), after payment of the Advance VAT as required in Section 3 of these Regulations. This certificate shall serve, together with the BIR payment form and documents issued by the DENR, like Certificate of Timber Origin (CTO), Certificate of Lumber Origin (CLO), Self Monitoring Form (SMF), or similar required certificate/form, as the authority to transport the naturally grown and planted timber products from cutting area to any destination which will be presented upon inspection by proper authorities, including officers and agents of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

A separate Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) will be issued to prescribe the details and specific manner in the issuance of Certificate of Advance Payment of VAT and reports to be submitted for monitoring purposes.

SECTION 6. Prohibition of Withdrawal. – The owner/ concessionaire/ seller of the naturally grown or private timber products shall not allow any transport of said timber products from the cutting area without the advance payment of the VAT.

Absence of proof of payment of advance VAT will authorize the agents of DENR and BIR to hold in abeyance transport/sale of naturally grown and planted timber products.

An owner of naturally grown and planted timber products, who can present a Certificate of Registrations (BIR Form No. 2303) showing that the owner is subject only to 3% percentage tax, shall be exempt from payment of advance VAT but should pay the advance 3% percentage tax as provided in these regulations. Such Certificate of Registrations (BIR Form No. 2303) and proof of payment of the advance 3% percentage tax shall serve as the authority to transport the naturally grown / planted timber products. Provided, however that despite the presentation of the COR herein mentioned, if the aggregate value of the products to be transported exceeds P1.5M, the same shall be subject to the advance VAT.

An internal revenue officer, to be assigned by the Revenue Regional Director upon the recommendation of the Revenue District Officer (RDO) of the district having jurisdiction over the physical location where the naturally grown and planted timber products are cut maybe present during the removal / transport of the said products from the premises of the cutting areas in order to ensure that the requirements of this Section are all complied with.

SECTION 7. Credit for Advance VAT Payments. – In addition to the input tax credits allowed under Section 110 of the Code, the amount of advance VAT payments made by sellers/ owners of naturally grown and planted timber products shall be allowed as credits against their output VAT on the actual gross selling price of the timber products. In the case of advance 3% percentage tax; the advance payment shall be credited to the monthly/ quarterly percentage tax return. The Certificate of Advance Payment of the VAT or Percentage Tax issued under Section 5 hereof shall be attached to the Monthly VAT Declaration/ Quarterly VAT Return or Percentage Tax Return to support the claim for credit of advance VAT or Percentage Tax payment.

SECTION 8. Penalty Clause. – Any violation of the provisions of these Regulations shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Sections 254, 275 and other pertinent provisions of the Code, as amended

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - These Regulations shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

Lilian B. Hefti
LILIAN B. HEFTI
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

"ANNEX A"
CAP VAT NO. _______

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS
Revenue Region No.____
Revenue District No.

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCE PAYMENT OF VAT/3% PERCENTAGE TAX
(Authorizing the transport of forest products & planted species)

Name of Owner/Transporter of Forest and Planted Timber Products ______ Tin: ______

Address: ______

Payor has made the advance payment of VAT /3% Percentage Tax in the amount of________ ____(P________)

for the transport of__________ (no. of cubic meters) of __________ (name of species), Accordingly, transport

of forest and planted timber products described above under Certificate of Timber Origin No.__ ________

dated__________________is hereby authorized.

Particulars	Drawee Bank	Number	Date	Amount
Cash				
Check				
BIR Form 0605				
Official Receipt				

Name of AAB ____________
Name of RCO/DMT ____________
Date of Payment ____________

Name of Authorized Revenue Officer ____________ Signature ____________

Position/Title ____________ Date ____________

Original copy	Taxpayer
Duplicate copy	File of issuing RDO
Triplicate caopy	Copy of Authorized Revenue Officer

(PDI – Dec. 7, 2007)

Gov't won't lift finger to stop peso increase, says GMA

By Michael Lim Ubac

THANKS TO THE OFWS: Customers at a crowded money changer shop are mostly seamen and relatives of OFWs. Cash remittances from OFWS are a key driver of growth for the economy but they complain that a stronger peso means smaller savings out of their hard-earned cash. AFP

LONDON (VIA PLDT)—HERE'S some bad news for overseas Filipino workers who will be sending money back home to their loved ones this Christmas.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said here in a speech before Filipino professionals that she would not intervene to arrest the peso's rapid rise.

She said the continued strength of the peso showed the resilience of the Philippine economy.

"The rising peso is a positive reflection of the strength of the economy. Otherwise, if the peso weakens, what does that mean?" she said. She told Filipinos here that the country was spared from the full effect of the rising price of oil in the world market due to the strong Philippine currency.

She said this meant lower gasoline prices and transportation fare.

To assuage the concerns of the OFWs, the President ordered new programs to help overseas Filipinos—who she said were the new heroes of the country—channel their remittances to savings and investments.

Ms Arroyo also stressed that she could not order the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to intervene in the matter because it was "legally independent" from the Office of the President.

"So we cannot influence the decisions of the central bank. But in any case, I want to assure you that we are mindful of the impact on our overseas workers of a strong peso as you send remittances home," she said.

She said she was working on ways to mitigate the impact of the peso on "your families' income" through the labor and finance departments.

Ms Arroyo urged the OFWs here to "enhance your financial freedom during this time of a rising peso.

"And financial freedom does not stop at having enough funds to sustain a family's basic necessities. Accumulating savings is part of the financial freedom, sufficient savings and turning this hard-earned money into solid capital, that is equally important," she said.

OFW money powers peso ...

From page A1

vened in the foreign exchange market, but later yielded to the strong foreign inflows from workers abroad.

Peso strongest in 6 years

The peso is now trading at its strongest level since it was at 41.73 on May 22, 2000. It has appreciated by about 17 percent this year, making it Asia's best performing currency.

With the US dollar substantially weakened, Vergara said that many OFWs were prompted to send more dollars home to meet the same household expenses in peso terms.

"If they used to send $500 a month, they may have to send $600 now for the same household budget," he said.

Also driving up the peso were the lump-sum payments made by expatriate Filipinos for condominium units and other real estate assets, Vergara said.

Property market boom

Ten years after the Asian currency crisis, the Philippine property market is booming partly due to the strong buying appetite of overseas Filipinos.

But Vergara said that because some OFWs were advancing their remittances, the flows could peak this week and the next.

"Maybe closer to Christmas, [the peso] will be normal again," he said. "That's why I see ... a slight room for correction toward 42.20 to 41.30."

Marcelo Ayes, senior vice president at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., said offshore investors were even more bullish.

"The closing rate is very good," Ayes said. "This looks sustainable, and we'll likely hit 41.50 to 41.30:$1 by yearend."

Across Asia, other currencies barely moved as uncertainty about the fallout from the US mortgage crisis and interest rate decisions persisted.

The US government has been trying to ease the property downturn in the world's largest economy. The US Federal Reserve on Dec. 11 is expected to cut benchmark interest rates, Ayes said.

He added that there could be a "Christmas rally" on Wall Street, which in turn would spill over to emerging markets like the Philippines.

Lower interest rates in the United States tend to make high-yielding assets in emerging markets like the Philippines more attractive to global investors.

The credit crunch in the United States was caused by rising defaults in subprime credit or housing mortgages given to borrowers with little equity or with blemished credit histories.

Helping OFWs

The state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines is now offering new marketing tools to help OFWs minimize the impact of an appreciating peso.

The bank recently secured the BSP's approval to offer various hedging instruments.

The DBP plans to market the hedging instruments through manning agencies that deploy workers abroad.

The BSP has also instituted measures to cushion the adverse impact of a strong peso on households supported by overseas remittances.

To improve the people's access to financial services, rural banks are now allowed to service foreign exchange remittances as well as buy and sell foreign exchange.

This is expected to improve delivery of remittance service and provide depositors, including overseas Filipinos, the option to keep their savings in the form of foreign currency deposits instead of immediately exchanging their earnings for pesos.

Different modes of sending cash

The BSP has also approved alternative modes of remittances, such as Internet-based cash transfers, use of mobile phones for performing financial transactions utilizing the text feature of cell phones for balance inquiry, fund transfer and withdrawals.

To encourage overseas Filipinos and their families to increase their savings and investments, the BSP has also proposed the issuance of multicurrency-denominated Retail Treasury Bond (RTB) instruments for overseas Filipinos.

"With a proposed initial offer size of $1 billion, the bond issuance would promote savings among overseas Filipinos as well as raise funds for development financing," the BSP said.

RP on top 10 list of petty bribery

From page A1

countries with the highest level of petty bribery, with 30 percent of respondents reporting paying bribes, were Albania, Cambodia, Cameroon, Macedonia, Kosovo, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania and Senegal.

By region, Africa experiences the most demands for bribes, the study found. Transparency polled more than 63,000 people in 60 countries between June and September 2007.

The Berlin-based organization also produces an annual ranking of countries perceived to be the most corrupt.

Poor hardest hit

The study "has made it clear that too often, people must part with their hard-earned money to pay for services that should be free," said Transparency International Chair Huguette Labelle.

"And they do not see enough commitment when they look to their governments and leaders."

The poor are hit hardest by petty bribery as they are more likely than those from a high-income bracket to pay bribes when seeking services.

And, Transparency said, that rule held true regardless of whether respondents were from richer or poorer countries.

Cops worst offenders

Telephone and gas providers were the least likely to demand bribes, while the police were the worst offenders.

Twenty-five percnt of respondents who came into contact with the police were asked to pay a bribe and one in every six reported that they ended up paying a bribe.

Judges in many countries are happy to take a bribe in return for dismissing a case or influencing a verdict in a court case.

In Pakistan, for example, 96 percent of those questioned reported corrupt practices in courts.

Basic right violated

"The police and the judiciary in many countries around the world are part of a cycle of corruption, demanding bribes from citizens," Transparency International's managing director Cobus de Swardt said in a statement.

"This troubling finding means that corruption is interfering with the basic right to equal treatment before the law." Labelle said however that Transparency had noticed some cause for hope.

"We are heartened ... that the public is increasingly demanding the accountability of the very institutions that most affect their lives, as this is a powerful driver of change," she said. AFP

Percentages of people who paid a bribe in the past 12 months

Country/ territory	*Top quintile (more than 30 pct)
Cameroon	79 percent
Cambodia	72
Albania	71
Kosovo	67
FYR Macedonia	44
Pakistan	44
Nigeria	40
Senegal	38
Romania	33
Philippines	32

Bottom quintile (less than 3 pct)	
Denmark	2 percent
Netherlands	2
Austria	1
Canada	1
France	1
Iceland	1
Japan	1
South Korea	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1

Solons wary of colleague's antics on cheap medicine bill

By Christian V. Esguerra

CONGRESSMEN ARE GROWING SUSPICIOUS over the conduct of a colleague in the much anticipated passage of the Cheaper Medicines Bill at the House of Representatives.

"Don't be surprised if this bill will not be passed before the Christmas break," Iloilo Rep. Ferjenel Biron told the INQUIRER yesterday, citing the purported antics of his fellow congressman.

The lawmaker under scrutiny was supposedly raising a multitude of concerns, to the point that he was already creating the impression that he was really out to kill the bill, according to Biron.

"We can't read him," he said. "We don't know what he really wants."

Biron is the principal author of House Bill No. 1, on which 23 other measures seeking to lower drug prices in the country were anchored. These measures had been consolidated into House Bill No. 2844.

Patience

Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez, chair of the committee on trade and industry, was similarly concerned about his colleague's antics, but said the House leadership was just being "patient" with his concerns.

"We will go back to the floor every day and answer his questions for as long as the bill will be passed," he told the INQUIRER.

Biron and Alvarez declined to name the congressmen, saying they did not want to rock the boat and endanger the passage of the bill.

Biron was puzzled by a proposal to suspend all patents to allow the sale of cheaper drugs in the Philippines. He said the suggestion, if put in HB 2844, would effectively arm foreign pharmaceutical companies with a legal ammunition against the measure.

"If we allowed this, we would be losers," he said. "The giant pharmaceutical companies would go to the Supreme Court to question the constitutionality of the bill and they will win."

Also baffling to Alvarez was the proposal related to the granting of licenses to allow third parties to import drugs in times of disasters and other forms of emergency. He said the suggestion wanted third parties to give "just compensation" to companies who owned patents to these medicines.

Going in circles

"We'll be going in circles because these third parties would naturally just increase the prices of their own medicines to make up for the compensation," he explained. "It would defeat the purpose of the importation which is to provide access to cheaper medicines."

Biron and Alvarez were expecting yet another round of spirited debates next week when the House tackled individual amendments to HB 2844.

Speaker Jose de Venecia on Wednesday said the chamber would vote on the third reading by then in time for the new Christmas deadline that he had set. He had earlier vowed to pass the measure in 60 days, but the deadline expired more than a month ago.

Biron and Alvarez were confident that HB 2844 would gather more than enough votes to survive the House scrutiny and join the Senate version of the Cheaper Medicines Bill in the bicameral conference.

"Right now, the House leadership is being accommodating and diplomatic in hearing out the concerns raised by different congressmen," Biron said. "But when push comes to shove, the bill will be passed and those out to kill it can't do anything about it."

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Senate on track to pass budget

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WITH SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE RUNning a tight ship, the Senate is on track to meet its self-imposed deadline to submit the final version of the P1.227-trillion 2008 national budget to Malacañang for signing before the end of the year.

The Senate completed the first phase of plenary debates on the budgets of the various government departments and agencies on schedule on Dec. 4, taking up only five session days to do so.

Enrile, chair of the Senate finance committee, made sure his colleagues stuck to the agreed-upon schedule. The Senate held morning sessions apart from the usual afternoon meetings and canceled other committee hearings to concentrate on the budget.

"We allowed them (senators) to make reservations for debates (on the budgets of the government agencies). If they did not appear according to their request for participation, I did not yield the floor to them later," Enrile said yesterday.

"If they were not present, then I am sorry. It is not because I wanted to be arrogant or to be *bida* (a hero), it was simply to make the functioning of the Senate efficient ... That's why we were able to finish the debates on time," he said.

Next week, the Senate will tackle individual amendments to the budget.

After the amendments, Enrile will move for approval of the budget bill on second reading and, subsequently, on third and final reading.

Even Senate President Manuel Villar acknowledged Enrile's efforts toward the "expeditious passage of the budget in the Senate."

"Not even an earthquake (on Nov. 27) could derail him from defending the measure on the floor," Villar said.

He said the Senate was on track to meet its goal to submit the budget to Malacañang before the end of the year.

This means the bicameral conference committee that will reconcile the Senate and House versions of the budget bill could start meeting as soon as the Senate passes its version.

Congress is scheduled to go on break on Dec. 21 and resume its session on Jan. 20.

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New SC justice deserves appointment, says Ermita

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo felt Sandiganbayan Justice Teresita de Castro was qualified and deserved to be on the Supreme Court, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Wednesday in defense of her appointment.

Ermita made the statement after De Castro's appointment raised speculation it was a reward for the Sandiganbayan's conviction of former President Joseph Estrada for plunder. De Castro was the presiding justice of the graft court's Special Division that found Estrada guilty and sentenced him to life in prison.

"I don't know whether it's too bad that she became the head of the special court in the Sandigan that heard that special case, but let's not castigate her for that," Ermita told reporters.

"As far as the President is concerned, she is qualified and deserves to be in the Supreme Court," he said.

Ermita said that before De Castro was appointed to the high court, she had been nominated thrice by the Judicial Bar Council (JBC).

Her first nomination came while De Castro was hearing the plunder case against Estrada and it did not come from President Arroyo, Ermita said.

"She was bypassed, if you might call it that. She was number one in the nominations of the JBC," Ermita said.

The JBC also nominated then Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura who got the nod to the Supreme Court.

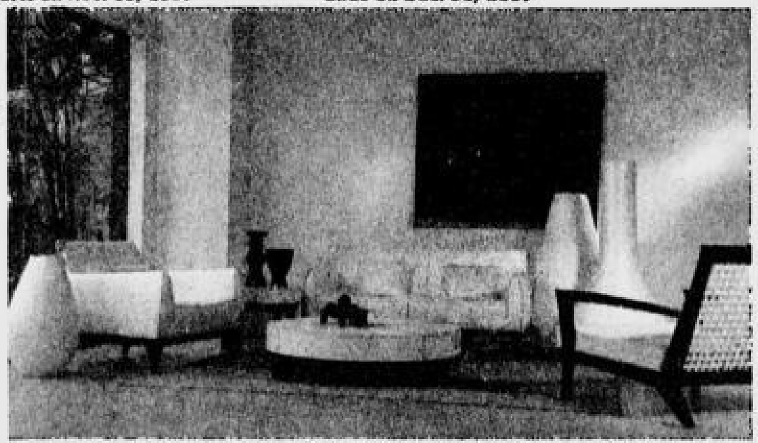
Because the Estrada case was still not over when another vacancy came up in the high court, Ermita said De Castro, who was nominated again by the JBC, did not get the appointment, "since it might jeopardize the government case against (Estrada)," Ermita said.

Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes got the appointment that time.

Now that Estrada's case has been decided and De Castro was "nominated a third time," Ermita said "the President thought that maybe she really deserved it."

"I don't think anybody can question the qualifications of the good justice," Ermita said.

JUSTICE TERESITA DE CASTRO taking her oath before Chief Justice Reynato Puno.



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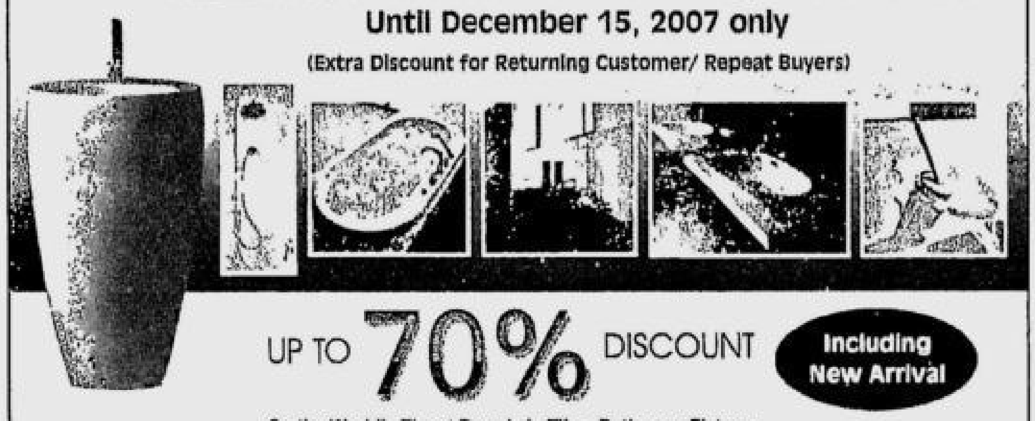

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SC upholds indictment of former DOTC exec

THE SUPREME Court has affirmed the Ombudsman's recommendation to indict a former transportation and communication official for graft in connection with the award of the contract for the construction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 (Naia 3) to the People's Air Cargo and Warehousing Co. Inc. (Paircargo).

In a Dec. 4 decision, the high court said the Ombudsman's reinvestigation of the criminal complaint against Wilfredo Trinidad and the finding of probable cause against him was proper, contrary to Trinidad's contention.

Trinidad, a member of the Department of Transportation and Communication's prequalifications, bids and awards committee, was charged with violations of the Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Act by Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., a losing bidder for Naia 3.

He was charged with knowingly prequalifying Paircargo despite the latter's failing to meet the committee's financial capability standards.

Trinidad argued that the AEDC graft case should not proceed because the Ombudsman had twice found no basis to indict in similar cases. He said repeated investigations were oppressive, and that there was no new evidence presented against him.

But the high court said the dismissal of a case during the preliminary investigation stage could not be considered double jeopardy because preliminary investigation was not considered part of the trial.

Review

"The Ombudsman is not precluded from ordering another review of a complaint, for he or she may revoke, repeal or abrogate the acts or previous rulings of a predecessor in office," it said.

It added that Trinidad failed to produce evidence to show that the Ombudsman's decision to indict him should be reversed.

As for Trinidad's contention that AEDC could not file a criminal complaint against him because its civil case to disqualify Paircargo from the Naia 3 project was dismissed, the high court said a criminal liability "cannot be the subject of a compromise."

Leila B. Salaverria

BIR STRESSES RESPONSIBILITY OF TAXPAYERS FOR INFORMATION IN TAX RETURNS

The practice of many business taxpayers of employing tax agents to prepare, sign and file tax returns in their behalf has become increasingly popular in recent years. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has observed, though, that a growing number of taxpayers whose tax returns were prepared and filed by their tax agents, are disowning responsibility for these returns, as well as in their attachments, particularly when errors are disclosed or audit findings made.

In a Revenue Memorandum Circular, the BIR seeks to remind taxpayers that although their tax returns and attachments may have been prepared, signed and file in their behalf by their tax agents, the information reflected in these returns and attachments remains their responsibility, as the principals whose names appear in the tax returns.

The BIR further emphasizes, through the Circular, a taxpayer's obligation to verify and validate the authenticity of a tax return and its attachments that was prepared by a tax agent in his behalf, as well as the information reflected in such documents. The BIR cautioned that in the event that a purported tax payment stated in a tax return is not actually received by the Bureau, the responsibility of paying the tax due *again* shall continue to rest with the concerned taxpayer, even if it is claimed that the tax payment in question was already made by his tax agent.

Beginning January 2008, the BIR's Revenue District Offices shall verify the and authenticate the accuracy and validity of all tax returns prepared, signed and filed by tax agents on behalf of their clients. The concerned taxpayers – as well as their tax agents – shall be held liable for any findings (including errors), infractions or violations noted as a result of this verification process.

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No typhoon; just rains spawned by cold front

By TJ Burgonio

THE RAINS THAT FELL IN METRO MANILA and some provinces in the country's eastern part yesterday was induced by the tail end of the cold front.

"There's no typhoon," said senior weather specialist Robert Sawi of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Light rainfall fell over Metro Manila from dawn until noon, in what some people thought was another weather disturbance.

Light to moderate rain prevailed over Aurora, Isabela and Quirino, and some of the provinces in the Bicol provinces which lie in the direct path of the cold front, according to the weather bureau.

The weather bureau said the cloudiness and rain showers would persist until tomorrow, before giving way to good weather, until another cold front enters the country.

Cold, dry air

The cold front, a weather system that forms clouds and induces rain during cold months, is the result of a convergence of cold, dry air from the northeasterly winds and the relatively warm, moist air from the easterly winds.

"For as long as we have the northeast monsoon, the cold front is here to stay," Sawi said.

The northeast monsoon (amihan) swept down from the plateaus of mainland Asia to the Philippines in late October, bringing cold weather. It is expected to peak in January and February.

Meanwhile, fishermen have been warned of moderate to high waves in the northern, eastern and western seaboards of Luzon, and the western seaboard of Visayas with the northeast monsoon.

Fishing boats and smaller sea craft are advised not to set out to sea in these areas because of expected moderate to high waves.

Pagasa has forecast one more typhoon will visit the country this month.

Dengue warning

With the country still experiencing the rains so close to the end of the year, the Department of Health has warned the public to remain on alert against dengue.

Dr. Lyndon Lee Suy, the DOH dengue program coordinator, said that while dengue cases are on a downtrend, there is no room for complacency with the continuing rains.

"We cannot be complacent. It is still raining and the threat is still there," said Suy.

He said homeowners must still continue to conduct regular "search and destroy" operations against possible breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Comelec needs list of deaths to purge roster

By Beverly T. Natividad

WHILE THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS has been slammed time and again for its failure to purge the voters list of the names of people who had died, a ranking poll official said local civil registrars were also to blame for the problem.

The Comelec has appealed to local civil registrars to cooperate and, pursuant to law, submit to it the names of those who die in their localities to help cleanse the voters list.

Ferdinand Rafanan, Comelec regional director for the National Capital Region, said in an interview the poll body was encountering problems cleaning the voters list because of the failure of civil registrars to abide by the law.

"Unless the civil registrar in every city and municipality cooperates, we won't be able to clean the voters list," Rafanan said.

2 million double registrants

He said Republic Act No. 8189, or the Voter's Registration Act of 1996, provides that local civil registrars give the election officers in their areas the list of their deceased constituents each month. The election officers would then cancel the names from their list of voters.

"There is a legal and obvious solution to this problem but it is not being implemented," Rafanan said.

As early as 2003, he said, the Comelec-NCR office had written the civil registrars in Metro Manila asking for updated lists of deceased residents but not all of them complied. He said he had followed up on the requests this year.

Early this week, Rafanan also disclosed that the Comelec's voters list contained about two million double registrants, or people who had registered to vote twice.

The Comelec, he said, had not been able to weed out the double registrants because election officers in the field cannot remove second and subsequent registrations without a Comelec order.

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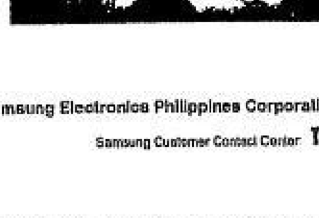

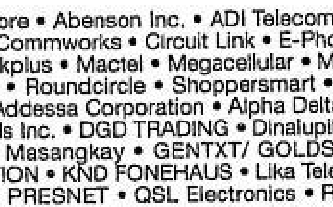

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Gov't bucks Trillanes bid to attend Senate

By Leila B. Salaverria

LETTING SEN. ANTONIO TRILLANES IV attend Senate sessions and set up an office in his detention cell in Fort Bonifacio would be tantamount to giving a person who attempted to grab power access to the government's secrets and resources.

Thus did the Office of the Solicitor General phrase its opposition to Trillanes' petition in the Supreme Court to be allowed to sit in the Senate and set up an office in his cell.

"The interest of the state to protect itself against usurpers ranks high in the hierarchy of rights, not for the benefit of government officials, but for the people whose rights will be subjugated by a lawless few," the OSG said.

The OSG filed its comment on Nov. 28, the day before Trillanes, on trial for coup d'etat for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, walked out of a Makati City courtroom and marched on the Peninsula Manila hotel with 35 others to try and spark another uprising.

The OSG is representing Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel, who is hearing the coup d'etat case against Trillanes, and the military led by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. Trillanes was a Navy lieutenant when he led the Oakwood mutiny. In May 2007, he won election as a senator even though he was being held in Fort Bonifacio. He is currently under police detention at Camp Crame for his latest caper.

The OSG said Trillanes was facing a criminal case for his attempt to overthrow the state and he was more dangerous than a person accused of rape.

"To grant the prayer of petitioner is like having Damocles' sword hanging over the head of the republic, where the very person charged with trying to seize state power is given unprecedented access to state secrets and coffers," the OSG said.

Allowing the senator to attend sessions five days a week or more "will virtually make him a free man with all the privileges appurtenant to his position," it added.

The OSG said no man was above the law, adding that the Supreme Court's rejection of the request of rape convict Romeo Jalosjos to serve his term as a congressman applied to Trillanes as well.

The gravity of the charge against Trillanes did not allow him to invoke his immunity as a senator since immunity applied only to minor offenses, the OSG said.

Trillanes also could not use the 11 million votes he received to subvert the law or seek special treatment, it added.

"Therefore, petitioner's reliance on the 11 million votes that catapulted him to a public post is misplaced. For the republic is never concerned with fractions, its quest is always the whole … What applies to an ordinary citizen must squarely apply to a high public official," it said.

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Manila Pen caper stalls court-martial

By Nikko Dizon

THE DETENTION OF ARMY Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim on charges of rebellion has led to the postponement of the court-martial hearing of officers accused along with Lim of attempting to grab power in February 2006, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said that the deferment of the hearing was not due to security concerns brought about by the Nov. 29 "Manila Pen revolt" launched by Lim, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Magdalo rebel soldiers, and their civilian supporters.

"I was informed by the court that the lawyers of the defense are asking for the postponement of the hearing for the reason that General Lim cannot be released by the PNP (Philippine National Police)," Bacarro told reporters.

Lim is among the 28 Marine and Scout Ranger officers charged with mutiny and violations of the Articles of War for allegedly conspiring to call for a withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo on the 20th anniversary of the first People Power Revolution.

Lim is now detained at the PNP custodial center with Trillanes, the Magdalo officers, and some of their civilian supporters, including Fr. Robert Reyes and human rights lawyer and Sanlakas leader JV Bautista.

Bacarro also said that the court-martial president, Maj. Gen. Jogy Leo Fojas, was on official business in Malaysia with Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr.

But Lim's lawyer, Vicente Verdadero, denied in a phone interview that defense lawyers had asked for the postponement of today's hearing at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

"Not one of the defense lawyers asked for a postponement. We even met last Wednesday and decided that we will all go to Tanay on Friday," Verdadero said.

Lim was a defense witness at the coup d'etat hearing of the Magdalo junior officers led by Trillanes when half of the accused walked out, taking him along with them.

Lim joined Trillanes, the Magdalo soldiers, and other civilians led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona in the two-kilometer march to Peninsula Manila Hotel where the Army general read a manifesto calling for the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

UP prof slams threat to arrest media men

By Fe B. Zamora
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT PLAN TO arrest journalists who refuse to follow police orders during their coverage of a news event is tantamount to arresting journalists for doing their jobs, former UP professor Luis V. Teodoro said yesterday.

"It is an impossible condition imposed on journalists. If you follow the logic of that statement, nobody can cover anymore," Teodoro, who is also deputy director of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, said.

In a dialogue with members of the media on Wednesday, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said journalists who ignore police orders to leave a "crime scene" will be arrested and charged with obstruction of justice and willful disobedience to authority.

Puno said these selfsame offenses were committed by the members of the media who were arrested and handcuffed during the seven-hour siege at the Peninsula Manila hotel on Nov. 29 that was instigated by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

The meeting with the media was held at the same hotel on Dec. 6.

Despite the arrests, however, none of the journalists arrested were charged.

Teodoro said the warning aired by Puno was "worse than the actual arrests" at the height of the siege.

"It was bad enough that they were arrested, but making that statement was even worse," he said.

Teodoro said that while journalists were arrested when martial law was declared in September 1972, "nobody was arrested while doing their jobs."

Someone who was around then and fought the Marcos dictatorship, however, said yesterday the media "clearly erred" when it failed to heed police orders to leave the Peninsula hotel.

"One thing is clear when a crisis situation arises—whether it's a police action or a military operation—once the order is given that the police or military can move, only the ground commander will make the decisions and nobody interferes with that," said Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Arroyo, who built a career as a human rights lawyer defending victims of the martial law regime, said: "They [uniformed services] have a duty to defeat the rebels, but they also have a duty to protect the civilians, media included.

"In the course of their operation, they have the right to tell them to get out because they're standing in their way. It is as simple as that," he said.

He said that instead of vilifying the police, they should be commended because no one was hurt when they defused the tense situation.

"Freedom of the press was not an issue at the Peninsula. What was at issue, if I understand it correctly, was that the right of the people to information, on matters of public concern shall be recognized. The media cannot say we will violate everything because the people have the right to information," Arroyo said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, December 7, 2007
1st Week of Advent
Ambrose

1st Reading: Is 29:17-24
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31

As Jesus moved on from Capernaum, two blind men followed him, shouting, "Son of David, help us!" When he was about to enter the house, the blind men caught up with him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do what you want?" They answered, "Yes, sir!"

Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "As you have believed, so let it be." And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus gave them a stern warning, "Be careful and let no one know about this." But as soon as they went away, they spread the news about him through the whole area.

Commentary

God's intent is fruitfulness, beauty, abundant life, wholeness, healing, and light. God is on the side of the poor and the lowly, and not on the side of the tyrant, the powerful, the arrogant, and those whose ways are unjust and violent. We are called to reverence the Holy One and be in awe of God—in Jesus, the beloved servant-child of God. We are to be instructed and learn how to live by Jesus' example. In baptism our eyes have been touched and opened so that we can see the power of God in Jesus, the incarnation of God: human and divine. Do we cry out for the sight of God—not just to see God, but to see as God sees us? And do we ask for pity for ourselves and do we also show pity to others and show to them God's goodness?

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'I feel this chapter isn't over yet,' says kidnap victim

By Allison W. Lopez

ALTHOUGH THE HARSHEST of sentences has been imposed on each of their captors, travel writer Buddy Recio believes that the horrifying chapter of their abduction in 2001 is not yet closed.

Recio, 56—who was kidnapped along with his wife Divine, son RJ (then eight years old), sister-in-law Angie Montealegre and 16 others at the high-end Dos Palmas resort—said three or four more bandits had yet to be caught by police.

"I feel this chapter isn't over yet. *Meron pa kasing ibang huhulihin,*" said Recio, whose family had stood as the sole witnesses in the case against the Abu Sayyaf.

"My family and I are happy that they were meted out 20 life sentences each. So even if someone takes pity on them or finds them eligible for parole, it's 20 life terms. If only there were still a death penalty, they deserve that. Still, we're very satisfied," he told the INQUIRER.

Recio said that although they were given short notice of judgment day, they wanted "to cheer" and see the case through to the end.

Thus, the couple and Montealegre chose to watch the proceedings from inside a holding room. "We didn't want to tempt fate by being [in the courtroom] with them," Recio said. (RJ had to go to school.)

Laughing

According to Recio, the accused were laughing as the verdict was read out.

"I don't know if they'll still be laughing in prison," he said.

The verdict, save for the acquittal of Satra Tilao, was expected.

"On a sour note, we didn't expect the one on Satra," Recio said, adding:

"She was part of the ransom collection ... She was the one trying to collect more money. She could have been given a lesser sentence, not freed."

Recio said that even as he and his family were dealing with the trauma of their abduction, they decided to pursue the charges until the end—unlike the other ex-hostages who chose to immediately move on, and perhaps bury the nightmarish memory.

Being in the government's witness protection program also meant that they had to leave their home and office in Makati City and face constant threats from the relatives of the accused as they continued with the case, he said.

"We were only four who served as witnesses. The others couldn't care less, probably, but we wanted to prevent this from happening again," Recio said. "The threats were there ... It's automatic; they have relatives who will be looking for us, especially since they have our IDs."

Fresh memory

The memory of that fateful morning in May 2001 when the bandits stormed into their cottage with long arms and seized them as they were preparing for a photo shoot still flashes back after all these years, Recio said.

The Recios were released after seven days, but not until after the couple sustained a bullet wound each in the siege in Lamitan, Basilan.

Recio admitted they paid a P1-million ransom to the bandits to free Montealegre after six months of captivity.

"For around two to three years, we had to stay in a hotel so that my son would not hear firecrackers. He couldn't eat—it was enough to drive you to tears," he recalled.

Even his family's book project, tentatively titled "Dos Palmas, The Truth," remained hanging for three years because of the sheer difficulty of writing about their abduction.

"We all have the raw materials, but it's the writing and editing that's stalling us. We still get nightmares," he said.

Unlike the book written by American missionary Gracia Burnham, the Recios' autobiographical documentation will stick more to what happened behind the scenes, Recio said.

He added: "She couldn't speak Tagalog, so I wonder how she knew about what happened to us. She was also separated from us because the [bandits] thought they could get more for the Burnhams. Some of what was written in her book was inaccurate."

Recio could not say when the book would see print, or when the trauma would finally end.

"As a family, we have moved on. But you cannot take away the trauma. It took some time. We relied on prayers. We're not bad people ... And we're from the media, so *matibay tayo sa ganoon,*" he said.

US Embassy statement

Last night, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney issued a statement on the conviction of the Abu Sayyaf members:

"People committed serious crimes against Americans and Filipinos. We commend the Philippine authorities for upholding the rule of law and bringing the criminals to justice. Terrorism is a serious crime, and we commend the Philippine authorities for their efforts to fight it."

20 life terms for each of 14 Abu kidnappers; 4 acquitted

From page A1

Justice attaché at the US Embassy in Manila, praised the government lawyers.

"It sends a strong message about the capability of the Philippine law enforcement to deal with terrorist activities through the criminal justice system," he told reporters.

Damages

The judge also ordered the convicts to pay damages to each of the victims or their heirs of between P50,000 and P300,000.

For missionary Gracia Burnham, the amounts were set at P300,000 in moral damages and P100,000 in exemplary damages; for the heirs of Martin Burnham, Gracia's husband, P300,000 in moral damages, P200,000 in exemplary damages and P50,000 in civil indemnity, and for businessman Reghis Romero, P50,000 in moral damages and P50,000 in exemplary damages.

"There's no justice in this country," Toting Hannoh, one of those convicted, told Reuters as he was being led by security officers to a police van after the sentencing.

"The Abu Sayyaf will grow stronger. We will be back," he said.

Channel 7's early evening newscast quoted Gracia Burnham as saying from the United States: "Both Martin and I forgave [our captors] while we were still in their custody, while we were still being held hostage, so my feelings toward them haven't changed any ... I wish them all the best."

Positive ID by hostages

In her decision, Pahinma said she gave more credence to the hostages' positive identification of the accused than the latter's denials.

"Denial, like alibi, is an insipid and weak defense, being easy to fabricate and difficult to prove," she said.

The judge also said the hostages' eyewitness accounts pointing to members of the bandit group as leaders, cooks, food-gatherers or guards could not be discounted.

Pahinma said the chain of events from the kidnapping to the transport of the hostages from Palawan to Basilan also proved collusion among the accused, despite their alibis.

"The chain of circumstances from the time the hostages were made to board the speedboat, then transferred to the commandeered fishing vessel, until they were brought to the lair of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan proved conspiracy," she said.

The court released the names and aliases of the 14 convicts: Abdulazzan Diamla (Abu Umbran), Daud Baru (Daud Daim), Ahmad Baky Abdullah (Ibnomalik), Bashier Ordonez (Bas), Sonny Asali (Abu Teng), Alzen Jandul (Arzen), Bas Ismael (Arabi), Haber Asari (Habil Asari), Kamar Ilias Ismael (Abu Jude), Marvin Vincent Rueca (Balik Islam), Margani Iblong Hapilon (Abu Nadim), Tuting Hannoh (Jakaria), Adzmar Aluk (Abu Adzmar) and Guillermo Salcedo (Urban).

Those acquitted, apart from Tilao, were Radzmar Sangkula Jul (Radz), Basher Abdul (Abu Jar) and Abdurrahman Ismael Diolagla (Abu Sahirin).

But Undersecretary Blancaflor said the three acquitted men would still be detained because they had earlier been convicted of another crime.

Because the accused were all deemed to be "high security," the trial was conducted at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City, their place of detention.

'No direct proof'

Pahinma said the prosecution failed to prove that Tilao was an active participant in the Dos Palmas kidnapping.

"There is no direct proof or circumstantial evidence that would show that Satra's [bank] account was used as a conduit for the transfer of ransom or additional ransom," Pahinma said.

"Mere knowledge, acquiescence to, or agreement to cooperate, is not enough to constitute one as a party to a conspiracy," the judge said.

According to court documents, hostage Angelica Monteleagre claimed that they were ordered to deposit the ransom for her freedom in Tilao's bank account. But Tilao denied this.

Pahinma, however, did not discount the possibility that Tilao and the others who were acquitted were connected with the Abu Sayyaf.

"But their participation in the Dos Palmas incident has not been proven beyond reasonable doubt," she said.

Tilao's mother, Isnaira Kurandin, sat at the back of the courtroom during the promulgation of the verdict.

Polio stricken

"I don't know what to feel anymore. I thank Allah for setting my daughter free," Kurandin, 67, told reporters.

"How can she be a bad person? She is lame," the mother said, pointing to Tilao's right leg.

Tilao—who was afflicted with polio as a child—walked with the aid of a female guard, whom she happily embraced when she heard that she had been acquitted.

Rudolf Philip Jurado, Tilao's lawyer, said his client would be released after the processing of her papers at the Metro Manila District Jail.

"Like what the decision said, there was insufficient evidence. She was included in the charge sheet on the basis [of being] Abu Sabaya's sister," Jurado said.

Warning to terrorists

Blancaflor said some countries had convicted terrorists but they were meted out prison sentences of only a few years.

Of the 39 convicted terrorists in the Philippines, 13 were earlier meted out death sentences which, however, were downgraded to life terms with the repeal of the death penalty.

According to Blancaflor, yesterday's convictions should serve as a warning to terrorists that they would be held accountable for their actions.

"Warning to all terrorists and would-be terrorists: It took some time, but the government will go after you whether you are Abu Sayyaf, RSM (Rajah Sulaiman Movement) or JI (Jemaah Islamiyah)," he told reporters.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, spokesperson of the Philippine Army, said the conviction of the 14 Abu Sayyaf members was "a triumph of justice" and "another battle won in the fight against terrorism."

Soldiers' morale

Torres said the conviction would also be "a source of encouragement to our soldiers in the front lines."

Asked if retaliation from the Abu Sayyaf was expected, he said: "We are always vigilant toward such possibilities. However, let us be reminded that our collective effort is necessary to thwart any terror attempts."

With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Nikko Dizon and Reuters

What Went Before

From page A1

for the kidnapping and said the captives had been split into two groups and brought to Basilan and Sulu.

On **June 2**, the bandits, with their hostages in tow, took over the Dr. Jose Maria Torres Hospital and the adjacent St. Peter's Church in Lamitan, Basilan.

Government troops encircled the hospital compound, and a firefight left 13 soldiers and seven civilians dead. (There was no government count of the Abu Sayyaf fatalities.)

The next day, the bandits were able to break through the military cordon, taking four more hostages from the hospital, including nurse Edibora Yap.

Escape

Sabaya later claimed that he and his comrades had paid local and military officials to allow them to escape.

By then, Romero, Recio and seven other captives had been able to flee to safety, and two other hostages had been killed by the bandits.

It was later rumored that Romero was freed in exchange for P10 million. He denied it.

On **June 11**, the Abu Sayyaf razed a chapel and seized 15 more captives from the Golden Harvest Plantation in Lantawan, Basilan.

The following day, Sabaya announced that his group had beheaded Sobero as an "Independence Day gift" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

On **June 23**, the headless bodies of two captives from Lantawan were found.

And then there were 3

On **Oct. 13**, the Abu Sayyaf abducted four farmers in Lantawan. Of the four, one was beheaded and two managed to escape.

Most of the remaining captives escaped or were freed between June 16 and Nov. 15. In the end, only three were left—the Burnhams and Yap.

On **June 7, 2002**, a military rescue team engaged the bandit group in the Zamboanga peninsula. Martin Burnham and Yap were killed in the firefight.

Gracia Burnham was shot in the leg but survived, and was later flown to the United States.

In May 2003, Gracia Burnham's book about her ordeal was released.

In the book titled "In the Presence of My Enemies," she wrote that during their captivity, the hostages were told that Sabaya was "wheeling and dealing" with a general over ransom money. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Jalosjos may be home free by Dec. 16

From page A1

Zamboanga del Norte congressman still had to serve.

Jalosjos was sentenced to two life terms for the 2006 rape of a minor. Last April, President Macapagal-Arroyo commuted his sentence to 16 years.

Speaking at a news forum, Msgr. Roberto Olaguer appeared hesitant to make a definite declaration on when Jalosjos would be free, but said a computation made by penitentiary officials showed his commuted sentence, plus the good conduct time allowance he earned, could make his release on Dec. 16 possible.

'Living out'

Olaguer, a friend of the former lawmaker and spiritual adviser to many NBP inmates, said the commutation of Jalosjos' sentence had made him eligible to become a minimum security or a "living out" inmate.

A living out inmate is free to roam the prison compound provided he reports for the morning and evening roll calls.

Olaguer said the commutation of his sentence and Jalosjos' accumulated good conduct allowance made him eligible for release in November 2008.

But being a minimum security prisoner gave Jalosjos bigger good conduct time allowances and a computation by penitentiary officials showed he could be released "between this month and Nov. 18, 2008," said Olaguer.

Asked if there was a computation that showed Jalosjos could be released as early as Dec. 16, Olaguer said: "There is."

"Yes," Olaguer said when asked if Jalosjos had shown remorse for his crime. "When you are in prison, even if you are wealthy, you'd have difficulty," the chaplain said.

Remorse

"I saw his remorse when he told me that he would lead the novena every Wednesday.... And he did. That was so many years ago."

Olaguer said Jalosjos also organized a feeding program that provides breakfast to inmates whenever they attended Mass.

COMMUTATION, COMPUTATIONS: Jalosjos' exact release date is still being clarified.

"He told me that when you're in power, sometimes you don't care when you are doing wrong," Olaguer said. He said such a statement coming from Jalosjos meant a considerable deal of remorse.

Has Jalosjos acknowledged that he raped his child-victim?

"His acknowledgment of a crime was not rape. It was more of acts of lasciviousness," Olaguer said.

"But that was a long time ago. Now he's silent on the matter."

Case of Manero

Olaguer said the penitentiary was being careful with announcements on inmates' release.

He cited the case of an inmate who gave away his things to other prisoners because he was expecting to be released by December.

"It turned out he'd be released on Jan. 10," Olaguer said.

Olaguer said he was referring to Norberto Manero, the man convicted of killing Italian priest Tullio Favali in the 1980s.

Vinarao's arithmetic

The Dec. 16 date for the possible release of Jalosjos was based on a computation by former Bureau of Corrections director Vicente Vinarao.

However, current Director Ricardo Dapat has signified he will ask the Department of Justice to clarify the computation of the release date, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Pending his review, the Dec. 16 release date would not be observed yet, Gonzalez said. If Vinarao's computation turned out to be correct, then it would be followed. If not, then the correct date would be observed.

"It will be based on the facts that are obtaining here," Gonzalez told reporters.

Needs clarification

Gonzalez said Dapat had told him he would send a letter to the DOJ today giving the facts surrounding Jalosjos' case to seek guidance on his release.

"Maybe there are doubts in the manner of the computation. We'll sort it out here," he said.

Dapat himself denied that Jalosjos was set to be released on Dec. 16.

"I do not know about that. I haven't received any paper or read any document on my desk regarding that," the BuCor director said.

The same is true of Manero, he said.

"Those things cannot be immediately decided upon, even with a good conduct time allowance. I have to evaluate both of their records first," Dapat explained.

'Illegal detention'

Malacañang commuted Jalosjos' two life terms to 16 years, 3 months and 3 days. The commutation included what is called a good conduct time allowance.

Jalosjos was convicted on two counts of statutory rape and six counts of acts of lasciviousness. His victim was an 11-year-old girl.

As of May 30, 2007, he had served, with allowance for good behavior, a total of 13 years, 5 months and 15 days, prison sources said.

Olaguer claimed that judiciary sources told him of the advanced date of Jalosjos' release and that the ex-congressman would file charges if he was not freed on that date.

"Illegal detention, perhaps," the chaplain said, when asked what charges Jalosjos could file.

Loren: No need to be a billionaire to run

By Gil Cabacungan

FAME RATHER THAN MONEY WILL BE THE deciding factor in the 2010 elections.

"You don't have to be a billionaire to run for president. Your popularity will bring you the money you need for your campaign," said Sen. Loren Legarda who topped the recent Senate elections and has remained the most popular among senators based on recent surveys.

Legarda was reacting to a comment by her colleague, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who had previously declared that the 2010 elections were shaping up as a battle of billionaires.

"Maybe three billionaires fighting each other and all the rest will have the fighting capacity of ants in the presence of three elephants," said Santiago referring to Senate President Manny Villar, Sen. Mar Roxas, and former President Joseph Estrada as the de facto front-runners in the 2010 presidential elections with their deep pockets.

Legarda said a candidate's popularity was a "huge magnet" for private financiers who look to the surveys as a guide on who they would pick to win the elections. This was the reason why she was not worried being referred to as one of the ants in the 2010 elections because she has continued to sustain her popularity.

Loren, however, was quick to point out that she has yet to make up her mind whether she would run for the highest post three years from now. Legarda said she was continuing to pursue her electoral protest where she claimed that she was cheated in her run for vice president in the 2004 elections which was won by former broadcasting colleague Noli de Castro.

But when asked whether picking an equally popular running mate was important, Legarda said that having a partner with a lot of following would be a decided advantaged in any election.

Asked whether his partymate at the Nationalist People's Coalition, Sen. Francis Escudero, would be an ideal running mate, Legarda paused and then said: "Loren-Chiz, that sounds delicious."

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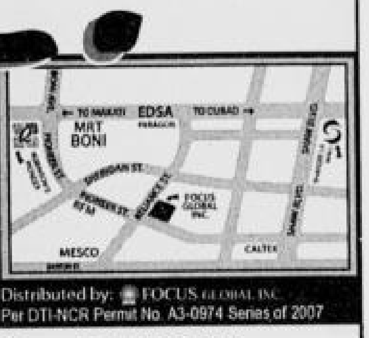

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS PROMULGATED IN CONNECTION WITH THE 29 OCTOBER 2007 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SK ELECTIONS IN THE 15 DECEMBER 2007 SPECIAL BARANGAY AND SK ELECTIONS.
x - x

Acting Chairman	Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner	Florentino A. Tuazon, Jr.
Commissioner	Romeo A. Brawner
Commissioner	Rene V.. Sarmiento
Commissioner	Nicodemo T. Ferrer
Commissioner	Moslemen T. Macarambon

Promulgated : 05 December 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 8381

This pertains to the adoption of resolutions promulgated in connection with the 29 October 2007 Synchronized Barangay and SK Elections in the 15 December 2007 Special Elections, insofar as these are applicable.

In order to save on publication expenses, the Commission **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to adopt the resolutions promulgated in connection with the 29 October 2007 Synchronized Barangay and SK Elections in the forthcoming 15 December 2007 Special Elections, insofar as these are applicable.

Let the Executive Director implement this resolution.

SO ORDERED.

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Acting Chairman

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

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Commissioner

(PDI - December 07, 2007)

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1N GUANGZHOU/1N MACAU/1N HONGKONG Dep. Dec. 23	$339
1N HONGKONG/2N SHENZHEN Dep. Dec. 23	$179
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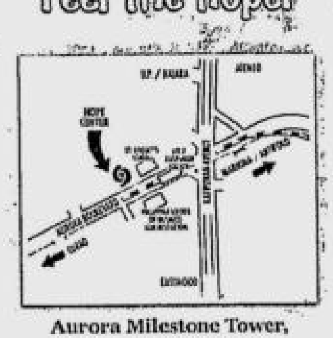

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IN ACADEMICS

A. Grade School

Mathematics Category

Neil Benjamin DT. Kho (Champion)
28th National Quiz Bee
Division Champion, Regional Champion, Grand National Champion

Neil Benjamin DT. Kho
Ana Karenina Batungbakal
Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards 2007

Ana Karenina Batungbakal
Wizmic International Mathematics Competition
Silver Medalist, Individual Competition
Gold Medalist, Team Competition

English Category

Raya Sofia A. Teston	First, Editorial Writing
Niel Benjamin DT. Kho	First, Feature Writing
Micah Christian P. Coronel	Second, News Writing
Daneva Maria DT. Reyes	Second, Photo Journalism
George Evan T. Dungca	Third, Sports Writing

2007 Division Young Writers' Contest, Muntinlupa
Over-all Champion Division Level

Filipino Category

Natasha Charmaine A. Tamayo	First Place, Editorial Writing
Kristie Ann Myra R. Agcanas	Third Place, Feature Writing
Shiela Marie L. Rabaya	Second Place, News Writing
Kerwin Edirey B. Utanes	Second Place, Photo Journalism

2007 Division Young Writers Contest, Muntinlupa

Arts

Angel Grace M. Grey	Second Place
Justin James F. Garcia	Third Place

Arts and Crafts Contest, Southville International School and Colleges

B. High School

Angela Bernadette S. Jarabelo
Andrew Rufino M. Villafuerte
Champion, 2nd Annual Biology Quiz Bee , University of Perpetual Help

Jazelyne Ahbey L. Monzon
Regine Monique L. Aurellano
2nd Place Winner, Muntinlupa Youth Month Quiz Bee

Regine Monique L. Aurellano
2nd Place Editorial Writing, NCR-WIDE Journalism Training Seminar

IN SPORTS

A. Grade School

Basketball Midget Boys FBL Grandslam Champions

B. High School

Basketball Junior Boys NCAA-South Back to Back Champion
Volleyball Junior Girls NCAA South Champion
1st World Taekwondo Culture Expo (Korea)
Ivan Jose M. dela Rosa Silver Medal, Poomse event
Citi Swimming Invitational Meet (Taiwan)
Heleisha Razel S. Laviña Most Outstanding Swimmer
(2 golds, 3 silvers, 1 bronze)
Set new record in the 100 meter backstroke
Jr. Cheerleading Team - WNCAA Back to Back Champion

Int'l scientists seek deeper, swifter cuts in emissions

From page A1

spokesperson. "It needs action. We're talking about now."

He said an interim goal endorsed by all major industrial nations but the United States—a target of 25 percent to 40 percent cuts by 2020—was "a good number" as a start.

Cut more

But another petition spokesman, Andrew Pitman of Australia, said some scientists declined to sign the declaration, "on grounds that we need to cut much more deeply."

The scientists aimed to spur talks here over launching negotiations, to extend over the next two years or so, on an emissions-cutting agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

The protocol requires 36 industrial nations to reduce the gases by a modest 5 percent below 1990 levels. The United States is the only industrial nation to reject that pact.

"We appreciate this is a significant challenge for the world community," Professor Andy Pittman, from the University of New South Wales in Australia, told reporters in Bali.

"But it is what is required to reduce the risks of dangerous climate change, and that is what we are all trying to do here."

The meeting in Bali, involving about 190 nations, aims to initiate a two-year dialogue leading to a broader climate pact by 2009 to replace or upgrade the Kyoto Protocol.

Global compact

The goal is to find a formula that will bring outsiders such as the United States, China and India into a global compact to fight growing emissions of carbon dioxide, which is produced from burning fossil fuels in power stations, industry and transport.

The United States, the world's top carbon emitter, has come under intense pressure from all sides at the Bali meeting to curb its emissions.

Professor Diana Liverman of Britain's Oxford University said the world was already seeing substantial impacts from global warming, but a warming of 2 degrees Celsius would have severe impacts in Africa, Australia, the polar regions and the Pacific Islands.

In a series of landmark reports this year, the UN climate science network, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, warned that failure to rein in emissions sharply would lead to severely damaging climate change—fast-rising seas, extensive droughts and flooding, severe heat waves and other dire effects.

The IPCC itself makes no policy prescriptions. But the 213 petition signatories, who include many IPCC authors, decided to deliver a "clear message" about what should be done, England said.

2-degree Celsius ceiling

The European Union, a leader in the Bali negotiations, has endorsed a ceiling of a 2-degree Celsius rise in temperatures, above preindustrial levels, as the maximum to which the planet should be allowed to warm.

To keep it below that level, scientists say atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases probably should be kept to 450 parts per million.

Even then, England said, "we're actually only giving ourselves an even-money chance of actually avoiding the 2-degree threshold."

In fact, he acknowledged, some measures find greenhouse-gas concentrations already approaching that level. "It's such an urgent situation," he said.

Asked about the petition, the chief US climate negotiator, Harlan Watson, said: "There are thousands of scientists involved in the IPCC. This is the opinion of 200. I haven't seen the statement and its content, so, no, I can't endorse something that I haven't seen."

The 213 signatories were overwhelmingly Americans, Europeans and Australians, with only seven representatives of developing countries, whose leaderships are wary of any treaty requiring deep emissions cuts that might hamper their efforts to lift their people out of poverty.

Economic symbol

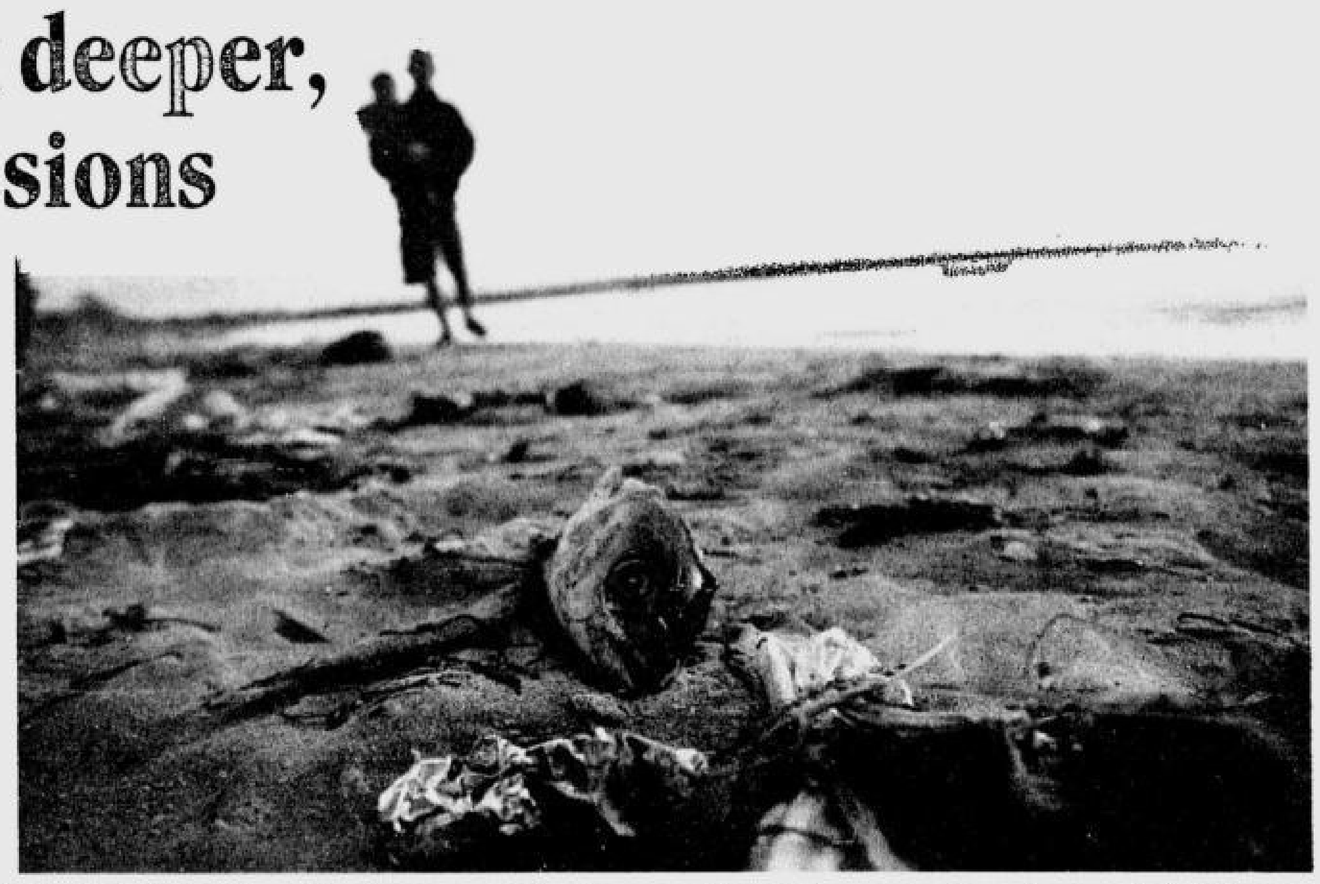
Outside the Bali conference center, eight activists dressed as polar bears added a twist to the climate debate by holding banners reading: "Humans need help too."

Polar bears have become an iconic symbol of climate change because the area of Arctic sea ice they rely for hunting has shrunk to record lows during the summer.

Separately, the WWF conservation group said that 55 percent of the Amazon rain forest could be wiped out or severely damaged by 2030 by a "vicious feedback loop of climate change and deforestation."

It said the effects of warming could cut rainfall and aggravate current trends in farming, fires, droughts and logging in the world's largest tropical forest.

The Amazon's forests are a giant store of carbon dioxide—trees soak up the main greenhouse gas as they grow and release it when they rot or are burnt. *Reuters, AP*



A PORTENT OF THINGS TO COME: A fish head lies on the beach in Bali, Indonesia, where the Climate Change Conference 2007 is ongoing. Rising sea temperatures will kill off coral and the fish that feed on it, thus endangering the larger species that feed on small fish. AP

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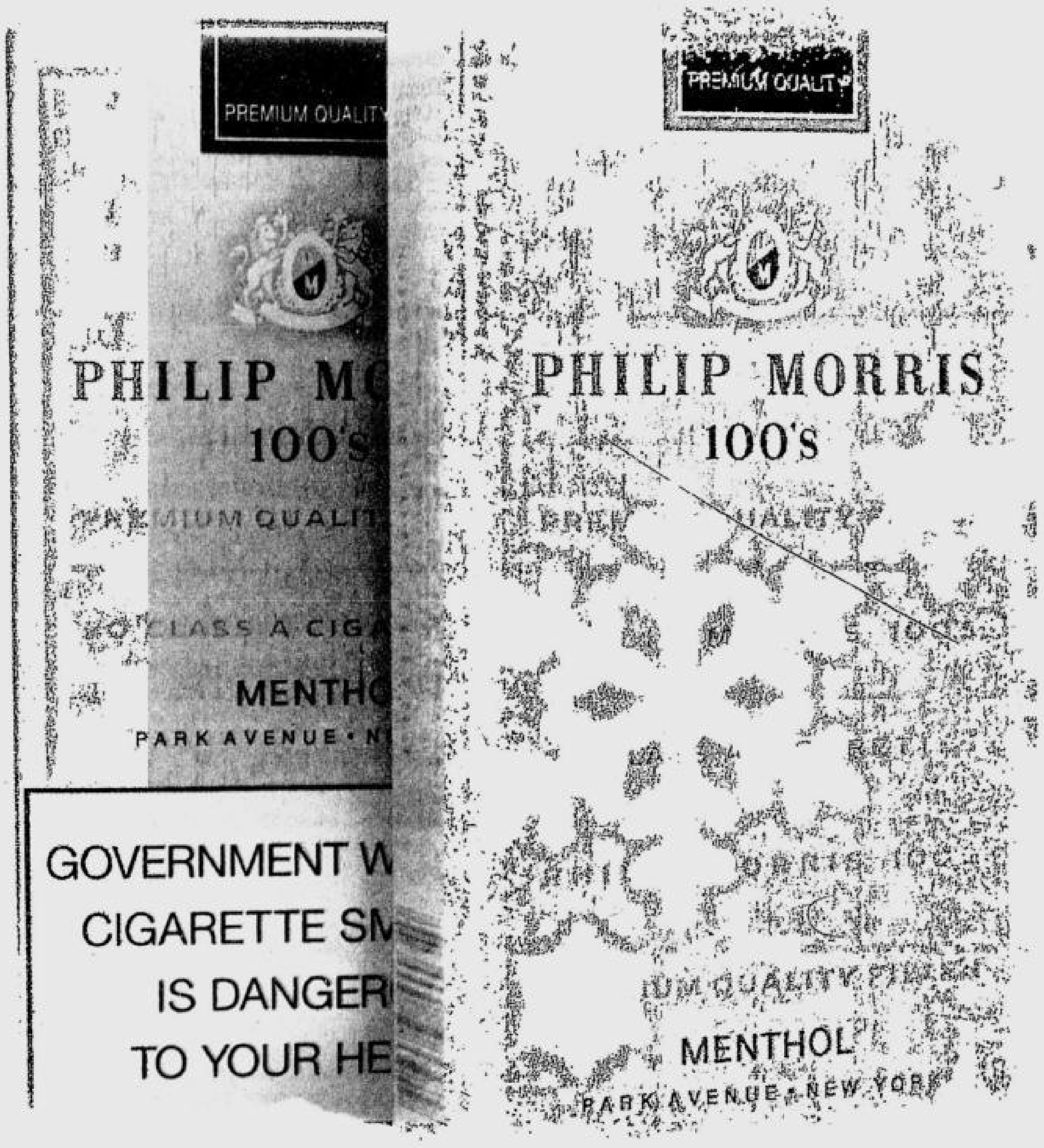

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Warner, a Virginia
-sponsor, told the

committee.

"We are the superpower in the world and we've got to utilize our status to try and help correct a situation I think all of us acknowledge is causing hardships ... that are really without precedent."

US President George W. Bush pulled America out of the Kyoto Protocol saying it threatened the economy and unfairly excluded big developing nations such as China and India from binding emissions cuts.

In turn, China and India say rich nations must do more to cut emissions and that caps would hurt their economies as they try to lift millions out of poverty.

"If we don't act, China and India will simply hide behind America's skirts of inaction," Warner said.

US climate negotiator Harlan Watson, however, said the bill would not impact Washington's position at the international gathering in Bali.

"In our process, a vote for movement of a bill out of committee does not ensure its ultimate passage," he told reporters. "I don't know the details, but we will not alter our posture here."

Washington's isolation in Bali has increased following Australia's announcement Monday that it has reversed its opposition to the Kyoto pact and started the ratification process—winning applause at the conference's opening session. That left the US as the only industrialized nation to oppose the agreement.

Yesterday, the Australian delegation said Canberra supported a UN document that mentioned cutting greenhouse gas emissions by between 25 percent and 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. The government has already proposed 60 percent cuts by 2050.

However, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd refuses to commit to the 2020 figures, saying it was premature to set firm targets before he received a comprehensive report he has commissioned on the issue, due next year.

The US Senate action cheered environmentalists and others in Bali clamoring for dramatic action to stop global warming. UN climate chief Yvo de Boer led off his daily briefing by hailing the "encouraging sign" from the United States.

"This is a very welcome development," Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists said of the Senate measure. "It shows the increasing isolation of the Bush administration in terms of US policy on this issue."

David Waskow, of the Oxfam humanitarian agency, said the Senate legislation was a positive signal to developing nations and others in Bali that America may be ready to assume a more active role in battling climate change.

"It's one of the things that point the way to having the United States re-engage in the negotiations, and really I think in many ways demonstrates the US leadership on these issues," Waskow said.

COOL IT: Katrina Genuis of Canada paints her face with a message to cool the planet. It takes all kinds of gimmicks to draw attention to the urgent concern of global warming. AP

The United States and ally Japan are proposing that the post-Kyoto agreement favor voluntary emission targets, arguing that mandatory cuts would threaten economic growth which generates money needed to fund technology to effectively fight global warming.

Failure to reach a new international consensus on curbing emissions, experts warn, will raise the threat of catastrophic droughts and floods, increased heat waves and disease, and sea level rises caused by melting polar ice.

US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns denied that Australia's acceptance of the Kyoto accord would prompt Washington to do the same.

"We do not see eye-to-eye with Australia or many other countries on the wisdom of signing the Kyoto regime, that's obvious," Burns said in Sydney, Australia. *AP, with a report from Reuters*

'Que horror,' leftists gasp over GMA rights medal

From page A1

kaya) yesterday said the Universidad de Alcala was ignorant of the real human rights situation in the country.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said the award was "ridiculous" when taken in the light of the extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances that had happened in the Philippines since Ms Arroyo took power in 2001.

The Medalla de Oro was given to Ms Arroyo in recognition of her decision to abolish the death penalty in 2006 and her efforts to seek international help to put an end to extrajudicial killings in the country.

Turning a blind eye

"The award-giving body is either ignorant of the real situation in the Philippines or it chooses to turn a blind eye to the widespread human rights abuses in the country," Reyes said.

"Abolishing the death penalty is one thing, but the bigger crime that the Spanish academicians failed to see was that the Arroyo regime sanctioned a policy of barefaced repression against its critics."

Local human rights group Karapatan lists more than 800 victims of extrajudicial killings and almost 200 victims of enforced disappearances under the Arroyo administration.

'PR stunt'

"To be simply oblivious of these crimes is to tolerate the same and insult the hundreds of victims," Reyes said.

"We feel sorry for the Universidad de Alcala for allowing itself to be used in this public relations stunt of the Arroyo government. The credibility of the university will suffer because of this much undeserved award for Ms Arroyo."

Reyes said the boast of the Arroyo administration that it had been prosecuting human rights violators was "empty."

Peninsula incident

He said the United Nations special rapporteur sent to investigate the killings and the disappearances pinned the blame on the military, yet not one high military official had been prosecuted.

Reyes said that just last week, the Arroyo administration used police powers to subdue the group of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV in their short-lived takeover of the Peninsula Manila hotel. Journalists who covered the event were also arrested.

Bayan and Karapatan will hold a protest action on Dec. 10 to mark International Human Rights Day and the families of victims of disappearances and extrajudicial killings are expected to take part.

Insult to Filipinos

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said the honor given to Ms Arroyo in Spain was "an insult to the collective intelligence of 87 million Filipinos."

Hicap said Spaniards should condemn the honor given by their king and university, to Ms Arroyo.

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OPINION

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Spanish fly in ointment

EDITORIAL

THE RAIN IN SPAIN FALLS MAINLY ON THE PLAIN—except for the fulsome praise of King Juan Carlos I, which fell like a summer shower on President Macapagal-Arroyo's head.

For abolishing the death penalty, the King of Spain toasted the President as a champion of human rights. He described the Philippines under her regime as being "at the forefront of liberties and the defense of human rights with the abolition of the death penalty, a gesture which gave us satisfaction." A gesture, the King added, that was "applauded by the international community."

Unfortunately, the King was misinformed.

The President certainly deserves credit for killing capital punishment; even though we thought political reasons intruded into the decision-making, we praised her last year for deciding to abolish the death penalty law.

On the issue of capital punishment, the Philippine experience has offered more proof for the general European position, that the death penalty is effectively discriminatory and anti-poor.

But the hundreds of unexplained killings that mar President Arroyo's legacy are a human rights catastrophe; she may declare, for all the world to hear, that her administration has "no tolerance for human rights" violations, but her words continue to ring hollow back home, and for all the same, old reasons.

The spree of killings, many of them of leftist activists, started under her term. The killings are the result of a new counterinsurgency strategy. The strategy breaks faith with the country's experiment in widening the democratic space; it sees in the very success of leftist party-list groups not the triumph of representative politics but the failure of previous accommodationist policies. Not least, the betrayal of that post-Edsa I experiment has a laughing, braying face: that of now-retired general Jovito Palparan, who left a spoor of blood in his every place of assignment and a trail of rationalizations and provocations throughout his career.

When the President honored Palparan during the State of the Nation Address by singling him out for specific praise, out of a dozen generals seated in the gallery, she compromised her own declarations against the killings. The meaning was unmistakable: She would pay lip service to principle, but would place personality above that same principle.

In the same manner, she has paid lip service to the need to heed international disapproval over the killings, above all by inviting the United Nations to send a special rapporteur.

But she declined to compel her closest advisers, including Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, to give Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur, all the cooperation he required. Gonzalez infamously called Alston a "mere *muchacho*" (a houseboy or a lowly errand boy); Esperon has called Alston's mission "half-baked."

Now that Alston has submitted his final report to the United Nations Human Rights Council, Gonzalez, Esperon and others have criticized the document as compromised and distorted—by the very lack of cooperation they extended.

As we have already pointed out twice before, the final report is essential reading. It is earnestly factual and closely reasoned; it accepts some military explanations or allegations in good faith (such as the AFP's take-it-or-leave-it accounting of the number of victims allegedly killed by the New People's Army); it castigates communist insurgents for their special courts and warns them of the possibility of war crimes charges being filed against them. But it is also a sweeping indictment of the Arroyo administration's human rights record, of its deceptive counterinsurgency strategy, of the inexplicable failure of the prosecutors and the seeming incompetence of the Ombudsman. Put together, the final report paints a human rights picture no so-called champion can want, no self-proclaimed advocate can own—a record no amount of polite diplomacy can explain away.

Quick. Give the Spanish King a copy of Alston's final report.

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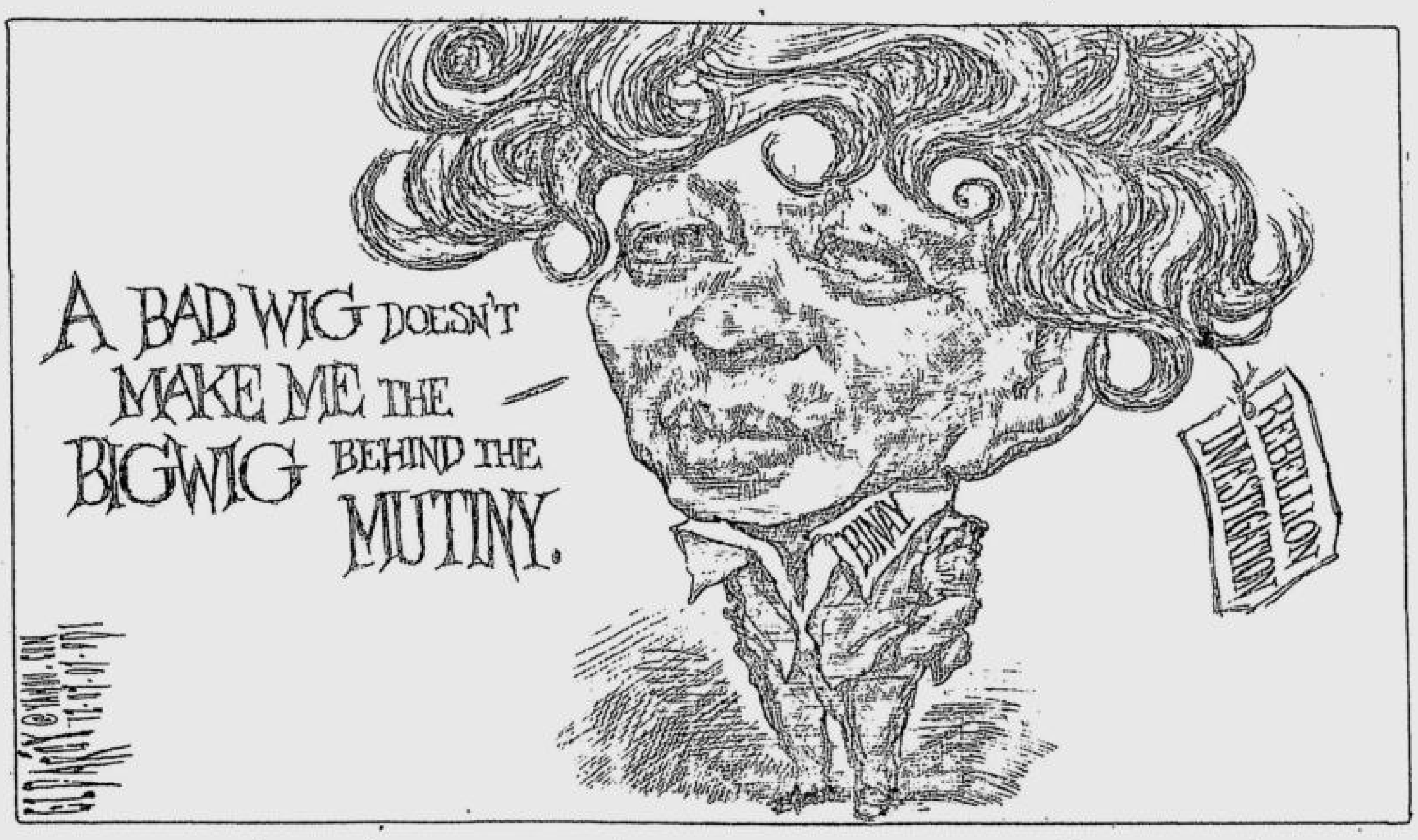


A junket, by any other name, is still a junket

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

A JUNKET, THAT'S WHAT IT IS! NO MATTER how Malacañang and its cohorts try to defend the inclusion of about 30 members of the House of Representatives in President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visits to Spain and the United Kingdom, it is still a junket.

The Palace denies it is spending for the representatives' plane fares and rooms in 5-star hotels. Speaker Jose de Venecia says the House is not spending for its members' trip. But who are they kidding?

I know how these things go, judging from what I witnessed in a number of presidential state visits I had covered, one of which was the visit of GMA's very own father, President Diosdado Macapagal, also to Spain, and to Italy and Pakistan.

Even if the plane fares are not paid with checks issued by Malacañang, it is Christmas in early December once the House members check into their hotel. Administration factotums would distribute envelopes filled with dollars (or euros this time) to every representative in their rooms, or at breakfast or dinner. Pocket money, they call it. Actually, it's people's money.

Cabinet members and other officials of the executive department claim their offices are paying for their trips. But still with taxpayer money, coming from—because of the value added tax—even the poorest families who can barely afford the jeepney fare to the next town. Now these opportunists and *sipsips* are spending it to travel abroad in style. The businessmen are most likely really spending their own money; they (or more accurately, their companies) can afford it. This state visit has the biggest presidential entourage in the history of the Philippines, barring none, surpassing even those of the Ferdinand-Imelda entourages in their visits to Europe and America. By the time GMA's state visits are over, Filipino taxpayers will be poorer by at least P100 million. (Imagine how many poor families that amount can feed, including that of the 12-year-old girl who hanged herself because of poverty.)

And all for what? For almost nothing. Except for the chairmen of the congressional committees on foreign relations, the lawmakers are not needed there. They are there only as "*palas*," stooges, to clap during GMA's speeches. In fact, they cannot add anything to the success of the visits except to increase the cost of these junkets. But they have to be rewarded for killing the impeachment complaint against GMA. It's Malacañang bribe-giving all over again.

What can we, the taxpayers, do to stop these raids on the public treasury? Remember the names of the congressmen and congresswomen who joined the junket (newspapers should publish their names) and don't vote for them in the 2010 elections.

* * *

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) sent a reply to the letter of Erlinda Llana Santiago giving the side of the landowners in the Batangas Port expropriation case. But first, a background on the case for those tuning in late.

The PPA expropriated a land area beside the Batangas Port, but the land value ballooned from P600 to P5,500 per sq m. The PPA would have to pay the landowners about P14 billion which it said it couldn't afford; therefore, it would rather return the land to their owners.

In her letter, Santiago said they are not overpricing their properties, that the P5,500 per sq m valuation was a decision of the trial court based on the recommendation of Cuervo Appraisers Inc.: that the property is not agricultural but commercial/industrial, and that the PPA did not present its evidence on the valuation of the property.

The PPA answered her point by point:

1. That the PPA did not present its evidence on the land valuation.

PPA: There is plenty of evidence on record that has not been considered by the trial court. The PPA's application for expropriation attached the tax declarations where the landowners had declared their lands as agricultural. This could only mean that the landowners were paying real estate taxes for agricultural lands; now that these lands have been expropriated, they want the same lands to be paid as industrial lots. Is this not pure and simple overpricing?

The PPA's application is also supported with the PPA Land Acquisition Committee's land valuation report (P340 per sq m), BIR's zonal valuations (P290 to P400 per sq m), voluntary sales of several landowners (P500 per sq m), and aerial photographs showing the agricultural state of land, which were not disputed by the landowners. Where the trial court got evidence to support its findings that the lands are industrial is beyond us.

2. Cuervo Appraisers' valuation of P5,500 to P6,000 per sq m.

PPA: It cannot be ascertained what properties Cuervo Appraiser is referring to. A map clearly shows that the properties are agricultural, not residential and/or commercial. This fact, even if not shown by government lawyers, could have been subject of judicial notice by the trial court. There is neither a developed property nor water, lighting, communications and garbage facilities in the area. Cuervo must have surveyed the wrong properties, for the abovementioned facilities could be found only in the city proper of Batangas City at the time of the filing of the expropriation case.

Additionally, Santiago and the other heirs of Popula Llana should be the last to raise this issue because the Court of Appeals, in CA GR 91091, found that the Llana property is agricultural with a zonal value of only P290 per sq m.

This Court of Appeals decision has become final and executory. *(To be continued)*

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel)—Transportation Secretary Larry Mendoza and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Chair Tom Lantion on transportation and traffic woes; and former Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag on the correct excise tax for Pall Mall cigarettes.

A nation of Sancho Panzas

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

HAD BRIG. GEN. DANILO LIM AND SEN. ANtonio Trillanes IV succeeded last Thursday, would we be hearing today from all the naysayers? Indeed, success has many fathers, but defeat is an orphan. But to the Monday morning quarterbacks out there, I ask: Would you rather have celebrated a tainted victory?

Sure it would have helped to have some prominent opposition politicians around. But in all candor, wouldn't you have been more wary to see the likes of House Speaker Jose de Venecia at The Peninsula Manila? Wasn't it the best endorsement that the new "Peninsulares" were absent and nowhere to be found?

Sure it would have helped to have the "*hakot*" multitude, the crowd-for-rent bused in for the event just to provide the warm bodies for what the Supreme Court called the "hooting throng," the better for TV cameras to pan and show the groundswell of public indignation. But shouldn't we go for quality rather than quantity, and respect the feisty handful at The Peninsula even more for daring to stand up and be counted?

Sure it would have helped to have an orchestra conductor for the whole shebang, a Cardinal Sin-type who can coordinate a steady supply of intrepid souls willing to lay down their lives for a transcendent cause. But don't we admire Edsa I also because it was largely the spontaneous outpouring of pent-up frustrations with a kleptocratic dictator and his spouse? Shouldn't we be more circumspect had there been a shadowy committee and its law firm running the show from, say, The Linden Towers at Ortigas like at Edsa II? Wouldn't an unrehearsed rebel holdout at The Peninsula be more authentic than the orchestrated oath-taking at the Edsa Shrine?

If at all there was anything worrisome about The Peninsula standoff, it wasn't that they were so few. It was that they could have actually pulled it off without a civilian component, and that if the military reinforcements had not been blocked, bought off, or preempted, we would have had our first coup d'etat without the façade of a civilian cover. Marcos staged a coup against Congress in cahoots with his "Rolex 12" generals and, with a little help from a pliant Supreme Court, called it "constitutional authoritarianism." The two Edsas were, to use the felicitous but not entirely truthful catchwords, civilian-led but military-backed uprisings.

So now, some Filipinos exclaim in disgust: Oh, Lim and Trillanes thought they could pull it off without our help? But I recall, the last time around, on that memorable day of Feb. 24, 2006, that was exactly what Brigadier General Lim did. With far more civilians involved, the element of surprise was inevitably compromised—and people then concluded: The plotters should've kept the secret to themselves!

Do not feign surprise at this latest attempt to oust Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It has been long in coming. "They who make peaceful change impossible make violent revolution inevitable," said John F. Kennedy. I was rushing my high school and college sons through the JFK museum in Boston when, to my surprise, they lingered at video-clips of JFK's speeches, something my wife and I aren't used to whenever we corral them into museums. If these words can move my sons, otherwise more attuned to winning medals for UP's varsity judo team, going to the gym, biking on hillsides and enjoying their youth in ways I'd rather not know, what will it take to move our nation?

There was some virtue in The Peninsula holdouts' shortcomings, yet the Filipino masses did not rally to their flag because for the Filipino today, politics has little to do with virtue and all to do with personal survival.

"Filipinos are all so prudent. That is why our country is as it is," Jose Rizal wrote to Mariano Ponce, as quoted by the INQUIRER for its third by-invitation only briefing. Prudence, as the saying goes, is the better part of valor. The Katipunan itself faced such apathy, and resorted to falsely implicating some *ilustrados* into collaborating with the rebels. We have long forgotten the spirit of the saying "*Carpe Diem*," Seize the Day—Seize "The Pen."

We crucify the Don Quixotes and sanctify the Sancho Panzas ever craving for the petty dukeships we covet. We deride Quixote's Dulcinea because she was not real and was a mere figment of his fertile imagination. We mock the dreamers whose dreams we had the power to give—and then blame them that we didn't.

We treat revolutions and coup attempts as if we had absolutely nothing to do with them. We externalize political events as something wholly distinct from our private lives and choices. Sad to say, that is so incorrect. If we are truly a democracy, rebellions should win only with our support or be doomed to lose without it. But now we prefer to be mere spectators, a democracy of onlookers who sit on the sidelines waiting for the smoke to clear … and to cheer on the victor. Faced with a historical moment, we hedged our bets, and chose to wager not on the basis of who's right and who's wrong, but rather on the basis of whose side has more guns and tanks.

For that very reason, the Arroyo administration must kid itself not and depict its Peninsula triumph as a validation of its reign of greed. The mass of Filipinos chastised Lim and Trillanes not because they tried to oust Arroyo. Filipinos were disappointed because they failed. Filipinos stayed away from the Peninsula not because they loved Arroyo but because they had many fears if the coup won, and even more fears if it failed. It was the skeptical cost-benefit calculus of people too often used and abused in the past. But, as the saying goes, "Beware the fury of the patient man."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

What the 'dialogue' produced

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AT THE HEATED "DIALOGUE" BETWEEN MEDIA and government representatives to establish "rules of engagement" on media coverage of coups, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno warned that the refusal by journalists to follow police orders to vacate premises of conflict zones would lead to their arrest.

He insisted that the warrantless arrests at The Peninsula Manila were part of "normal police operations," thus trivializing the arrests as a mere procedural issue. He glossed over the fact that the arbitrary arrests raised fundamental constitutional issues on prior restraint on journalists covering conflicts affecting national security.

Without going into contentious debate over the legal issues, we are compelled to emphasize that, from a practical point of view of crisis coverage, journalists know that "prior restraints," imposed by the police, work as censorship and as an impediment to presenting to the public an honest and unvarnished picture of the conflict in which the government faces threats to national security.

Warnings or "requests" issued for journalists to clear the premises of The Peninsula Manila as the police prepared to storm it last Thursday were regarded by journalists as suppression of the free flow of information and a form of pre-censorship.

This fundamental conflict between the right of the public to be informed about public affairs and the right of the state to defend itself from rebellions came to a head after the arrest of journalists covering the siege of The Pen.

Puno's contention that the arrests involved merely "normal police operations" betrays the dangerous and repressive mind-set of the administration in coping with coups. This warning gives the public and media what to expect when journalists cover future coups. What the "dialogue" has produced so far is a police state edict giving notice that rules of war (clear the area or be killed) would apply in "coup zones."

In justifying the arrests, the government panel threw the entire book at the media panel. It cited a whole armory of archival material, including the 18-year-old National Telecommunications Commission Circular 22-89, dated Dec. 5, 1989, saying: "all broadcasting and television stations ... shall not use [their] stations for broadcasting and telecasting ... or for dissemination of false information or willful misrepresentation, to encourage or assist in subversive or treasonable acts." Government authorities also threatened to cancel the franchises of offending TV-radio networks reporting (treasonable and subversive) acts, and assumed blanket authority to determine what's "subversive and treasonable acts."

This regulation surfaced after the latest coup attempt led by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim was crushed, and after the mass arrests. The legal justification for the arrests came as a post-coup afterthought. PNP Director General Avelino Razon said, in the "dialogue," that the journalists were arrested with the rebel soldiers and other civil society figures inside the hotel for ignoring police "request" to clear the premises to make way for police operations. Puno said the journalists were arrested for "consistent and persistent refusal to obey" police standard operating procedures and for "obstruction of justice." Puno said it was not the coverage "that was the problem, but the physical presence of the media that caused obstruction (of justice).".

Puno was belied by the turn of events. The presence of journalists did not prove to be a problem. The police crushed the insurrection swiftly, and the presence of journalists did not prove to be an obstruction to the police's tear-gas attack and APC assault on the hotel lobby. The outcome demolished Puno's justification.

When journalists were arrested, handcuffed and hauled off to a police camp in Bicutan, together with the Trillanes-Lim cohorts and a handful of civil society activists, they were held without warrants of arrest, and they were told they were "invited" for "processing" or "verification" of whether rebel soldiers had infiltrated their ranks. This was an altogether different explanation than that advanced by Razon and Puno.

In the rebellion charges filed by the Department of Justice five days after the warrantless arrests, there is yet another version in what appears to have been "an open-ended work-in-progress" fabrication of contradictory justifications. The state prosecutors said, "the civilian respondents' act in waiting for the group of Trillanes in Manila Peninsula hotel and eventually joining them while disregarding police advice, evading police blockade ... only shows their concerted effort and intention to coalesce with them toward the attainment of a common objective."

Up until the post-coup dialogue, it was not clear to media networks whether they had been formally charged with any offense and what prompted the PNP to issue a subpoena directing them to hand over their video footage, with the warning "FAIL NOT UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW."

The events following the crushing of the coup attempt have confirmed what Philip Alston, special rapporteur of the United Nations on extrajudicial executions, has concluded: that a "culture of impunity" is partly responsible for the unabated death squad killings in the Philippines.

In restricting media coverage of insurrections, the government is setting up another culture of impunity that would shield security forces from public accountability for trampling upon the basic constitutional guarantees on the right to information and against illegal arrests.

Boarding the e-jeepney bandwagon

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF YOU SHOULD SPOT FUNKY-LOOKING VEHIcles, bearing wild, colorful and wacky designs and plying the streets of Bel-Air Village and the Rockwell Complex in Makati, you've just seen the "e-jeepneys," or electric jeepneys.

The streamlined jeepneys, which like regular jeepneys can carry up to 14 people, including the driver, are also the visible symbols of the concerted efforts of concerned individuals, environment groups, a foreign funder, the private sector and local governments to find a solution to the problems of solid waste management and pollution from fossil fuels, both of which contribute to the crisis called climate change.

As their name implies, the e-jeepneys run on electricity, to be sourced from energy generated from biodegradable waste. The jeepneys thus have a two-fold purpose: to make public transportation less dependent on fossil fuels and thus less polluting, and to solve the problem of disposal of organic waste, which in the Philippines constitutes half of all household and commercial waste material.

For now, though, the e-jeepneys are still being pilot tested, two in Bel-Air Village in Makati, three in Bacolod City and one in the Ateneo Loyola campus for controlled testing. And while the proponents still iron out arrangements for the establishment of power plants for the processing of organic waste and for power generation, the e-jeepneys run on electricity from Meralco after an overnight charging.

"They're such hits!" enthuses Bel-Air barangay Chair Nene Lichauco. "The residents are very happy about them. The e-jeepneys are like our toys, a novelty."

For now operating for free, the e-jeepneys ferry residents, including house help and staff, around Bel-Air Village and to and from the Rockwell Complex. When more e-jeepneys are fielded, pending licensing by the Land Transportation Office, they will ply the streets of the Makati CBD, charging the same fare as the regular jeepneys.

* * *

WE—that is, Eileen Co of the Green Renewable Independent Power Producer Inc. (GRIPP) and myself—boarded an e-jeepney in front of the Bel-Air clubhouse and asked the driver to take us around Rockwell and back. An e-jeepney runs at a maximum speed of 40 kph, plugging steadily along the quiet streets. The driver told us that not once, in the months since he has been driving the vehicle, has it stalled on him. "We just charge the batteries for eight hours, and we can run from six in the morning to 5:30 in the afternoon," our driver proudly declared.

If it feels a bit like riding a golf cart, it's no accident. The e-jeepneys are made in China by a company that makes golf carts. Soon, though, says Eileen, in partnership with local motor vehicle manufacturers, the e-jeepneys will be more home-grown, with up to 85 percent of their components sourced locally.

But the e-jeepneys are just the culmination of what's been called "The Climate Friendly Cities Project." This is a joint effort of GRIPP, which is affiliated with Greenpeace, in partnership with the Netherlands-based DOEN Foundation, the city governments of Bacolod and Makati, the Solar Electric Company, Philippine Bio Sciences Company and the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines.

As Eileen tells it, the e-jeepneys were originally slated to be tested only in Bacolod, since the provincial government of Negros Occidental had long been cooperating with GRIPP and Greenpeace, starting with a campaign against a coal-fired power plant. But when Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay heard about the vehicles and the entire project, he offered the city as a pilot site.

* * *

FOR Von Hernandez, coordinator of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, it's the entire process of generating power for the e-jeepneys that is the most exciting aspect of the project.

"It presents a solution to the problem of disposing of organic wastes," says Hernandez, noting how this has become a major problem of local governments around the country. Should the project get off the ground, the e-jeepney fleet will be housed in a depot that will serve as a charging station and maintenance center, fed by a power plant consisting of a generator, a "high solid anaerobic digester" or biodigester that converts household waste into biogas, and a gas engine.

Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, however, threw a damper on Von's optimistic plans when we met him at the Lichauco residence. Foremost of his concerns was where GRIPP proposed the depot and station would be located. "When we leased an empty lot as a garage for our garbage trucks, which were already hosed down and cleaned before leaving the dump site, we were flooded by complaints," he recalled.

This, even as the dump trucks were carrying off garbage produced by the homeowners themselves.

* * *

"FOR this project to succeed, we need the support of the local government," Lichauco declared. But, as in the case of Makati, even while the city government is behind the project, the residents would also need to "get with the program," starting with segregating their waste and then agreeing to host in the neighborhood a center where organic waste would be converted into biogas.

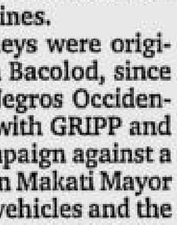
It's all very well for everyone to board the climate-friendly bandwagon—or e-jeepney, for that matter. But it's quite another thing to play host to the facilities that will make the initiative feasible, profitable and sustainable. We all wring our hands about the increasing mountains of trash we all generate, as well as about pollution from public transport. But would we be willing to live alongside a biogas facility, or a recycling center, or even a depot for e-jeepneys?

So before we board the bright, friendly e-jeepneys, we might give a thought to the price we're willing to pay to keep them running.

Spanish on comeback trail in RP

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



TWO DECADES SINCE THE OBLIGATORY LEARNing of Spanish in the university level was abolished, we are now seeing the revival of Spanish, mainly through the high-profile efforts of the Instituto Cervantes and a number of universities that maintain a Department of European Languages. Two decades since the abolition of Spanish as an obligatory course in the university level, we have the welcome news that President Macapagal-Arroyo will endorse Spanish (that has since been dropped as an official language of the Philippines) as a preferred language. The President is fluent in Spanish and, as an economist, she knows the value of this language in our time. I do not want to get into the debate on English vs Filipino as a medium of instruction. I would rather think that everyone benefits from solid language instruction, and that the more languages the modern Filipino can speak, the better suited he or she will be for a global and globalized world. When we revisit the four reasons that led to the abolition of Spanish in 1987 (please refer to my column last Wednesday), we can see how we have changed and how the climate for Spanish learning is now ripe for the picking.

(a) In 1998 the Philippines celebrated the centennial of its declaration of independence from Spain. Instead of the bitterness that such memory generated, we now see a more understanding view of the past. Spain brought both good and bad things to the Philippines and we should acknowledge and remember both. The renewed interest in history and cultural heritage, resulting from the Centennial Celebration, required and encouraged the use of Spanish once again. Through the efforts of Sen. Edgardo Angara, we now celebrate by law Filipino-Spanish Friendship Day.

(b) The teaching of Spanish today is different from that in my time. New methods emphasize communication rather than grammar. Students are encouraged to speak, read and write in Spanish. Grammar has been pushed to the margins as a support to language instruction rather than the end-all of it. Furthermore, learning Spanish has been supplemented by audiovisual materials readily available on the Internet and cable television, especially TVE or Television Española that provides us the news, game shows like "Saber y Ganar," documentaries and films 24/7. Unfortunately we still have a Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) whose mandate or guidelines definitely have to be reviewed since the slightest hint of sex or nudity results in the temporary suspension of TVE. Filipinos are great fans of Mexican *telenovelas* beginning with "Marimar," and TVE has these daily. TVE and the Internet have exposed Filipinos to Spanish not just from Spain, but from the wider Latin American world. Filipino children are now bred on basic Spanish from "Dora the Explorer" and, of course, everyone knows Betty la Fea or Betty *la mas fea* who has since crossed over into America and is now known as Ugly Betty.

(c) The recent rise of the call center industry has given Spanish a practical and lucrative use in the Philippines. While we have a competitive edge in English in the call center business, we have cutthroat competition from India, Pakistan, and now even China. The Filipino has an obvious edge in Spanish in this area, and we are told that Spanish speakers are paid more than those who know American English. As the Philippines tries to be more competitive in the global and globalized world, the government has refocused on enhancing the deteriorating English skills of students, and, by extension, Spanish is making a comeback. Frankly, in universities where a foreign language component is required, given a choice to take any foreign language like French, German, Japanese, Chinese or Bahasa, it is obvious that Spanish becomes an attractive option, a "preferred" language.

(d) Aside from its commercial use, the rise of Spanish as a spoken language has made the learning of it practical and useful to Filipinos who travel to the United States for work or tourism because in some areas Spanish is fast becoming a second language; and some recruiters and employers require overseas Filipino workers bound for the United States to obtain a certificate in basic Spanish.

With all of the above changes that have come about in the past two decades, one can only say there is a renewed and growing interest in Spanish today. The Instituto Cervantes de Manila, which took over from the Centro Cultural de la Embajada de España, has taken the lead in Spanish language training, and from what I hear from satisfied students, they have made the task of learning a new language fun. Aside from language, the Instituto has a weekly screening of Spanish films, there are lectures to re-introduce us to Spanish culture in food, literature and poetry. This is starting to sound like a PR job for the Instituto, but seeing the new method for learning Spanish makes me wish that they were around when I was in college, because if they were, I would not only be reading Spanish, I would surely be speaking it fluently today. Things do come full circle in time: Spanish was once an official language of the Philippines, then it was scrapped from schools, now it is back as a preferred language. Let's see where it goes in the next decade.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Without us

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"HARMONY FOR MOTHER NATURE?" SISTER ROSARIO Battung asked me. She was pointing to the words printed out on a ticket for a concert for the benefit of the Zen Center Philippines.

Sister Rosario was puzzled, unsure about the meaning of the phrase. I thought it might have meant we need to live in harmony, for nature. On the other hand, the phrase did seem to suggest that humans need to work out something—given the destruction wrought on nature—"for" nature. But using "for" suggests we still know what's best for nature.

All this isn't quibbling about words. Our perspectives in dealing with nature are important. For much of human history, we've seen ourselves as owners of the planet. Christians will sometimes even use the Bible to claim that God wants us to dominate nature. Only in recent years has this view been disputed, with new interpretations of our role: more of a steward, or caretaker, working "with"—rather than "for"—nature.

Still another view here is to see ourselves as transient visitors. Our lives are of arrivals and departures. We move on, giving way to new generations, also transient. But being transient visitors still requires responsibility; we don't visit other people's homes and leave a mess. That same principle should apply to the planet.

Now what

Alan Weisman, an American writer, has just come out with a book, "The World Without Us," that presents intriguing scenarios which might help us think of ourselves as transients. Many doomsday books and films have appeared, imagining how the world would end: asteroids crashing onto our planet, a collision of planets, an alien invasion, or global suicide through nuclear war. Weisman moves away from these doomsday scenarios, presuming that something has happened, wiping out humans, and then asking, "Now what?"

From the tone of the book, it could as well be "Now what, so what?" The book reminds us that without humans, Mother Nature will go on and it might even be a better world, at least for nature.

Notwithstanding the "so what?," it's still fascinating to try to imagine what the world might be like without us. Scientific American's July 2007 issue did pick up on the book, featuring an interview with Weisman and graphic illustrations of what a post-human New York City might look like. Let's look at some of those scenarios:

Two days into the post-human era, New York City's subways completely fill with water as the sewage and water system goes awry. In one year, street pavements split as water in the cracks freeze and thaw. In two to four years, the streets become covered with weeds. Trees create larger cracks on the sidewalks, even as their roots would descend deep into the city's sewers to wreak more havoc. Without heating systems, homes and office buildings crumble on their own because of the cycles of freezing and thawing. In five years, most of New York have burned down because of lightning striking the uncollected garbage and dead branches (especially in Central Park), setting off fires. (Think Malibu Beach the last few weeks!)

In 300 years, New York City's suspension bridges have fallen and in 500 years, the entire New York metropolitan area is covered with mature forests.

I thought of the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, which did withstand hundreds of years without humans, even as the roots of centuries-old trees invaded the temples.

Winners

The "winners" in all this? Weisman names birds which, without the skyscrapers and power lines, would have better chances of survival. (A billion birds break their necks every year on these human structures, according to Weisman.) All forms of wildlife would come into the city, but life won't be easy for them because tiny creatures, called insects, would come to dominate in the city's ruins, literally feeding on the wildlife. Another unexpected winners: cats, especially stray ones; they, would thrive with the bounty of small mammals and birds to prey on.

I'd love to see the University of the Philippines or some other academic institution convening a symposium to look at what might happen to Metro Manila and the Philippines in such a post-human scenario. I was thinking, too, of our street dogs and cats taking over, together with the indomitable cockroaches and geckos (*butiki*) and rats and mice, mainly because we don't have too much wildlife left that can take our place.

Birds would be the exception. Our post-human cities would become paradises for many bird species, wild, domesticated and in-between. Pigeons would inherit our high-rise buildings; next time you drive through the city, look up at those condos, and you'll find that many of their ledges and windows have been claimed by avian colonies of "informal settlers." After we're gone, the pigeons would multiply even more quickly and abandoned buildings would provide safe haven from the raptors (for example, eagles).

Wouldn't that be wonderful, the cities quiet except for bird songs? A world without us would be a world where buses and tricycles and karaoke would be silenced for eternity. Also, hallelujah, politicians and preachers.

Weisman points out what might persist after we all leave the planet. Lots of plastic, of course, and I can imagine what it'd be like for the Philippines. Other waste materials, and pollutants, could persist for centuries. The lead deposited in the soil, from our automobile emissions, would take 35,000 years to dissipate, according to Weisman.

The junk we leave behind could shape the kind of life that would succeed us. The UP campus in Diliman would become the first mature forest in Metro Manila, but other parts of the cities would have their own botanical paradises: even today, in our inhospitable environment, I've seen shrubs growing out of cracks in buildings. With our sunlight and humidity, minus humans, all kinds of plants would thrive and mutate in wondrous chaos.

If we want to be scientific about all this, even in a post-human world, we will remain. From physics, we know that everything in nature, and that includes humans, are made of atoms, which are constantly being recycled. My body includes atoms that could have been from another human in the past, or a tree, or a tiger.

We will live on in a post-human world, through the atoms and, unexpectedly, digital signals. Weisman says that trillions of years from now, broadcasts of the "Twilight Zone" (and, I presume, our *telenovelas*, and the Manila Pen standoff and . . .) will still be traveling around in space, faint and fragmented but still there.

I could certainly think of nobler legacies, and that's where living here, and now, in harmony with the earth, might be more helpful.

Oh, curious about that Zen benefit concert? That's still coming up this Sunday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m. at Brother Donato Center at La Salle Greenhills. Noel Cabangon and Susan Fernandez are performing. Tickets will be available at the gate at P300, P500 and P1,000.

LETTERS

Blaming the people for gov't failure

JUSTICE ISAGANI CRUZ, IN HIS column titled "A forgetful and forgiving people" (INQUIRER, 11/11/07), blames the Filipino people for the failure of government to punish the oppressors and crooks of past and present administrations starting with Marcos. "The Filipinos are a forgetful people," he laments, also noting that the crooks and tyrants have been "practically condoned by their forgetful victims."

This is a constant elitist line that ought to be refuted. It tears to shreds the doctrine of "accountability" enshrined in Article 11 (Accountability of Public Officers) of our Constitution. Under this article, public officers who are derelict in the performance of their duties, who are guilty of bribery, graft and corruption, are held "accountable to the people."

In our democratic system, the people delegate the power to "execute the laws" primarily to the Chief Executive, the prosecutors and the judges, and—in the case of impeachment—to Congress.

The ordinary folks, some 80 million of them, have neither the time nor the resources to prosecute and punish the betrayers of public trust, for they are too busy earning a living or going to school. Their duty in a democracy, aside from voting, is to pay taxes so that the president, the Cabinet, the prosecutors, the judges, the legislators can have offices, staff, free transportation and big salaries and allowances to do the job they have solemnly sworn to do.

If Presidents Aquino, Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo have failed to send government crooks and abusers to prison, and to recover stolen public property over these past two decades after Marcos' ouster, it was not the fault of the people.

Like in a corporation, the corporate officers, not the stockholders, are held responsible for a corporation's bankruptcy. You don't hold the passengers of a bus or an airplane responsible for a crash, but the driver or pilot. Victims are not to blame, otherwise they should be sent to prison and not their abusers. It was President Arroyo who pardoned Estrada and not the people. Do people forget? They don't. Consult the INQUIRER's Opinion page.

The claim that it is the people who are to blame for the failure to hold public officers accountable for their crimes is a cop-out, a convenient excuse given by persons in authority for their fiasco and probable connivance with the crooks and abusers for a share of the loot. Don't blame the victims for the acts of their victimizers.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

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Who the 'saints of poverty' are

RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID, IN HER Nov. 11 column, wrote that Mariannet Amper, the 12-year-old suicide victim from Davao has been made a "saint of the poor" by no less than the INQUIRER when it gave the case wide coverage, while blaming her death on poverty and the government's failure to address it.

The circumstances surrounding Mariannet's death has not been fully investigated by the authorities and there might be reasons other than her despondency over her family's economic plight. Although she wrote in her diary about her inner turmoil with regard to her parents' frequent fights, their being jobless and her frequent absences from school, these should not be enough reason to make such hasty conclusion. If poverty was indeed the cause, then let it be an eye-opener for all of us.

Mariannet's death by suicide is a challenge to all concerned, (parents, schools, church and government and other sectors of society) to make sure such cases are prevented by continued and earnest efforts to address the problems of the poor. Children must be taught that being poor is not a hopeless state and there is way out of poverty for those who try hard enough. Values such as resourcefulness, perseverance and a strong faith in God must be strongly inculcated.

If there is a "saint of the poor," I would like to give the title to every child who tries to keep his or her family alive through sheer hard work. We see them every day—they who poke through piles of smelly garbage, wash cars, shine shoes and sell all kinds of stuff, from plastic bags to *sampaguita* garlands and do a host of other odd jobs, not minding the danger posed by the outside world.

—THERESA PILI-NISPEROS,
2684 Juan Luna St.,
Tondo, Manila

Independent probe may vindicate PNP

I AM ONE OF THE MANY FILIPINOS DEEPLY saddened by the barbaric and terrorist bombing at the House of Representatives last Nov. 13.

As the director for political affairs of the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (the political party founded by President Joseph Estrada), and having been born in Basilan, from where the late Rep. Wahab Akbar (one of the victims killed in the bombing) hails, I am supporting the call for an independent and impartial investigation to find out who really is the mastermind of that dastardly crime.

In my experience, Basilan politicians are gentlemen-warriors. If they have to fight, they themselves do the fighting and they fight only with their enemies, face-to-face, without involving the innocent.

We would like to believe in the integrity of the Philippine National Police. But the Payatas raid conducted right after the bombing has raised some eyebrows, casting doubt on the police investigators' findings. The raid made the bombing look more suspicious and "scripted."

An independent investigation may vindicate the PNP, our justice system and the House should its findings turn out to be the same as that of the PNP.

—PABLO B. CASIMINA,
director for political affairs,
409 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

Gov't right to seek pardon for Filipina

I FELT COMPASSION FOR MARILOU RANARIO when I read the news report headlined "Death for Pinay in Kuwait." (INQUIRER, 11/28/07)

Despite the accusation against her, I see in her a hero. She was just standing up for her rights—to the salary due her and to be treated as a human being.

Imagine how hard it must have been for her, a teacher, to work abroad as a domestic helper. Maybe, she left because the salary of a teacher wasn't enough to support her family.

A lot of overseas Filipino workers are going through the kind of abuse she experienced. But I am happy that our government is doing something right this time, pleading for her life. I am hoping that the government of Kuwait will pardon her.

—VANESSA KAREN T. FAJARDO,
664 Pineapple St.,
Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City

Traffic signs not at par with global standards

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE LETTER TItled "Obscure road sign, dangerous traffic hazard." (INQUIRER, 11/19/07)

In Metro Manila, the street signs and signals are not compliant with international standards. And definitely, they pose grave hazards to motorists and pedestrians.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority should consult with the Department of Public Works and Highways for the correct signages and signals, instead of inventing and creating "money," or at worst, "death" traps. MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando should look at the traffic accident data—most accidents were caused by poor, erroneous signs and signals!

Signs are supposed to be reflectorized and visible from a reasonable distance to warn motorists what's up ahead, or to give them necessary directions for their safety. The MMDA does not use reflectorized signs. And the U-turn signs it puts up are generally so near the U-turn slots. By the time a driver sees a U-turn sign, he is practically already on the U-turn slot the sign is referring to. The MMDA should at least be technically proficient on and compliant with basic road safety operations and standards.

—RENE TABABA,
renet203@yahoo.com

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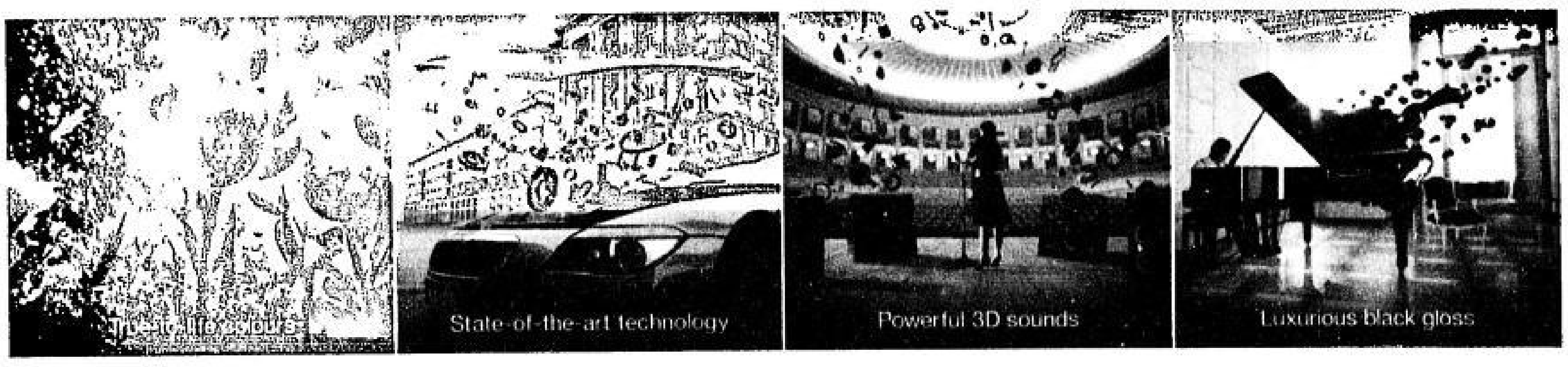

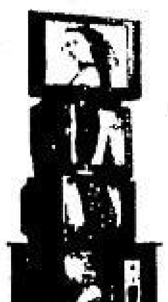

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Bishop's wish for gov: Birth of new Pampanga

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto on Thursday urged local officials to unite with Gov. Eddie Panlilio, a Catholic priest on leave, so that together they could achieve the "birthing of a new Pampanga."

THE "BIRTHING of a new Pampanga" is what Archbishop Paciano Aniceto expects from priest-governor Eddie Panlilio and local officials.
TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

"The governor, the mayors, other officials should be dedicated to the whole community, not for one group," Aniceto said in his homily during Mass he celebrated for the 54th birthday of Panlilio at the provincial capitol's ground. No local officials attended the Mass.

"They should focus the vision and mission to those who called them, the people, through whom God speaks and works," the 70-year-old prelate said.

"They should support moral governance by listening and dialoguing with the people and by working for genuine common good."

Birthday wish

Asked why he made such an appeal, Aniceto said: "A birthday is a very important event in the life of a public official, therefore it's time to reflect on the oneness and togetherness, and solidarity of all those who were elected with him for the service of our people in Pampanga."

"It is an appeal to everybody regardless of political affiliation to continue to renew for the birthing of a new Pampanga," he said.

Panlilio, he said, should not isolate himself or be isolated by those who disagree with his brand of leadership.

"I think there should be a mutual effort to reach out to one another. It's a process. In a democratic process, no parties should isolate themselves from one another because (public service) is a collective venture. It's a collective responsibility given by our people and therefore, we expect that the more you walk together, the more good you can accomplish," Aniceto said.

Leadership style

He said that Panlilio's public leadership is "partly defined by his priesthood."

"Apart from his being a priest, I know him as a human person, that he is really very responsible, dedicated and very trustworthy. And of course, added to that is the fact he is a moral leader. You look at it in holistic matter," he said.

The spokesperson of the Pampanga Mayors League, Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, earlier urged Panlilio to "act more like a politician than a priest."

By that, Pelayo said he meant that the governor should stop being naïve, exert efforts to understand the dynamics of teamwork and respond to the exigencies of public service.

One of his critics, Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, said his "watchdog role" was part of his job, not borne out of loyalty to his defeated running mate, Lilia Pineda.

Panlilio's disclosure that he received P500,000 in Malacañang on Oct. 11 worsened the rift with local officials.

His statements in a Senate inquiry that he has "no evidence" that the money came from President Macapagal-Arroyo or that she gave it as a bribe to court loyalty amid a new impeachment complaint against her appeased local officials.

Panlilio's known ally is San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, who has made inroads in transparency in government.

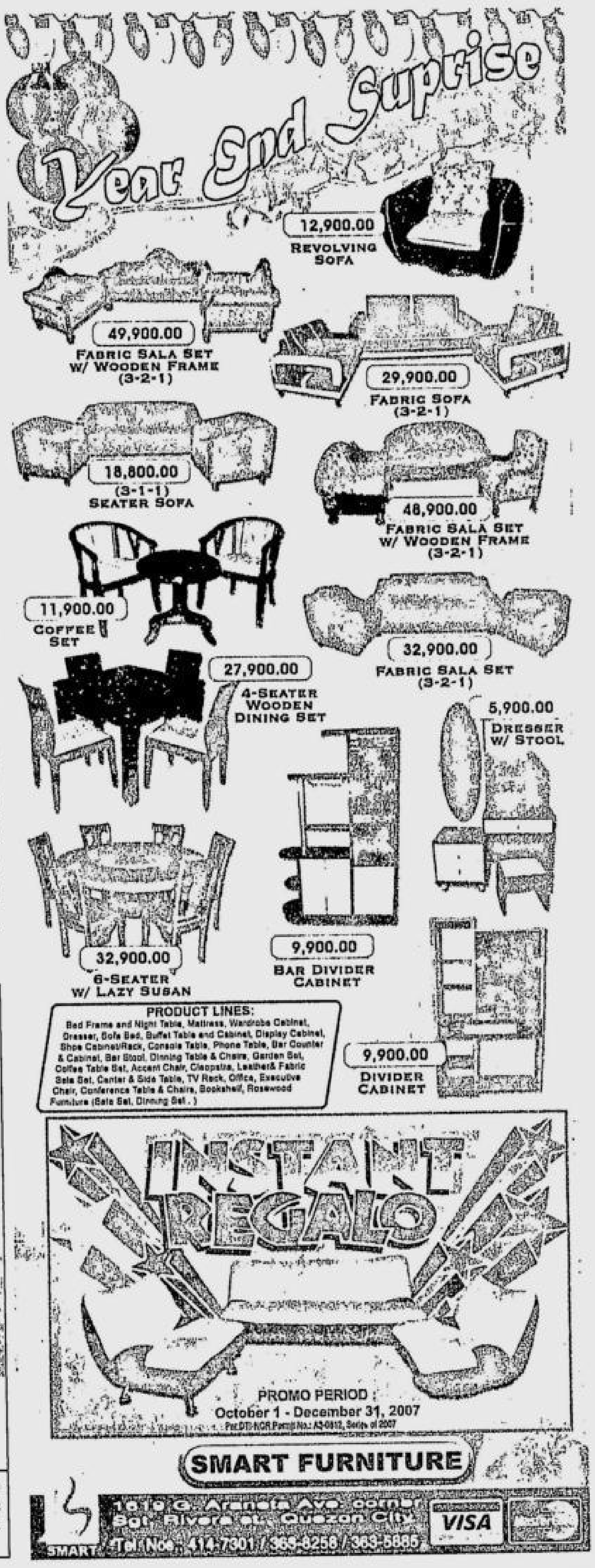
Panlilio was on his 26th year in the priesthood, which was a mix of social action and parish work, when Kapampangans pushed him to run against Pineda and Mark Lapid.

God's pencil

In the Mass, Aniceto advised Panlilio to be "like a pencil in the hands of God."

"You erase the mistakes or perpetuate the errors. You have to sharpen, and that is painful because you make corrections and adjustments," Aniceto said.

Replying to Aniceto before the latter gave the final blessing, Panlilio said: "Birthday is always a time for grounding and renewal with God... I'm offering myself to everybody who doesn't love me, to even those who don't appreciate me." *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



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Dagupan mayor starts claiming foreshore lands

DAGUPAN CITY—MAYOR ALIPIO FERNANDEZ Jr. has ordered the city assessor's office to immediately cancel all tax declarations covering foreshore lands on the beaches of Tondaligan National Park, especially in Barangay Bonuan Binloc here.

In an executive order, Fernandez noted that the city council had declared in a resolution three years ago that the city intended "to use all available public lands within its territorial limits for commercial and tourism purposes."

The council had also requested this year the community environment and natural resources office (Cenro) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources not to issue any certificate of alienability and disposability on any foreshore or public lands in the city.

City engineer Virginia Rosario, head of the city's task force on housing and urban poor resettlement, said it was "imperative and urgent necessity to preserve foreshore or public lands within the territorial jurisdiction of Dagupan City for our future needs."

The foreshore areas are actually accretions along the coastline of the historic Bonuan Beach that could now be anywhere between 30 and 35 hectares.

Based on records from the city assessor's office, 104 of the 109 tax declarations issued to individuals, including present and former city officials, since the 1970s, covered foreshore areas in Barangay Bonuan Binloc. The rest were located in Barangay Bonuan Gueset and Bonuan Boquig.

At least 51.7 hectares have been covered by tax declarations with a total assessed value of P11.2 million and market value of P38.3 million.

"We are now determining which of these areas are foreshore lands because there are also accretions along the rivers in Bonuan," said Allan Dale Zarate of the local assessment and operations office. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
December 07, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

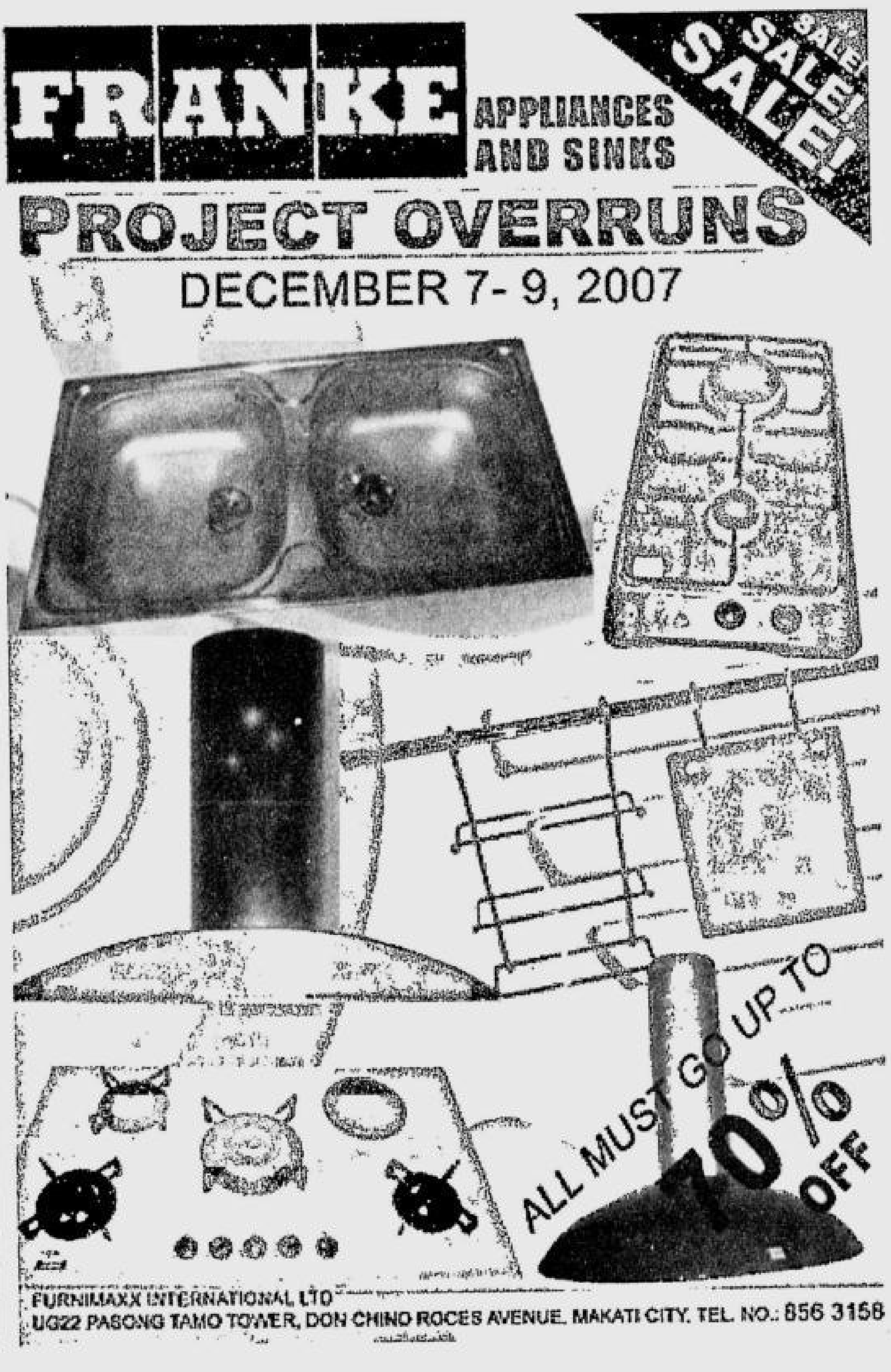
Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1. HIGHCOM THERMOTECH, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Suk Young Kang/ Korean	Quality Control Manager
2. HIGHCOM THERMOTECH, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Kiwhe You/ Korean	Production Manager
3. HIGHCOM THERMOTECH, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Seung Cheol Choi/ Korean	President
4. PHIL-JH TEXTILE CORPORATION Brgy. San Juan, Taytay, Rizal	Mr. Yeonggoo Kim/ Korean	Quality Control Manager
5. HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Sta. Rosa City	Mr. Toshio Kasuya/ Japanese	Assistant Vice President for Manufacturing Service Department
6. FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES CIP I, Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Mitsuhisa Sekino/ Japanese	President
7. EPSON PRECISION (PHILIPPINES), INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Mr. Hiro Nakazawa/ Japanese	Manager
8. ACHI-WOOL INDUSTRIAL PLANT TECHNOLOGY, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Sungil Park/ Korean	Design Manager
9. C & F MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Paul Hynes/ Irish	General Manager
10. DECO CANDLES, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Tarek Marwan Bernoussi/ French	Cost Controller Manager
11. DECO CANDLES, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Ms. Amandine, Leonie, Rosalie Treguer/ French	Financial Controller

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI–December 7, 2007)



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Groups formed to enforce 1996 pact

BOY WITH a wooden gun in Zamboanga del Sur. According to a Unicef-funded study, children living in conflict areas tend to voluntarily join and support armed insurgent groups, like the New People's Army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front, after suffering from trauma and abuses. JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

COTABATO CITY—GOV. ZALDY Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has started to organize five technical working groups—composed of three experts each from the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)—that would find ways of implementing the 1996 peace agreement in full.

The MNLF has been complaining that the government continues to ignore some provisions of the peace pact, including one that requires a regional security force, more than 10 years after it was signed.

The erstwhile rebel group has blamed the government's alleged failure to honor several provisions in the agreement for the recurring violence between its forces and the military.

The complaint has prompted the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which brokered the agreement, to call for a tripartite meeting in Jeddah last month.

Ampatuan, who attended the tripartite meeting, said the technical working groups will focus on the issues of shariah and the judiciary, the special regional security force and the ARMM unified command, natural resources and economic development, political system and MNLF representation, and education.

Ampatuan said to speed up the work he assigned the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) to work with the Department of Justice to handle the issues on shariah and the judiciary.

He said the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines will concentrate on the issue of the regional security force.

Other agencies, he said, were also tapped to help address the other issues brought out by the MNLF.

"I have not set a timetable for the completion of the tasks but I am vowing to hasten the work and come up with the final implementing guidelines very soon," he said.

Umal Kanggu, ARMM treasury head, said he already asked the RLA to set aside funds for the working groups.

Muslimin Sema, MNLF secretary general, said the move was long overdue. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Vote-buying, dirty pols mar youth elections

ILOILO CITY—CHARGES OF VOTE-BUYING and political intervention marred the elections for Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) federation president in cities and municipalities in the Visayas.

Iloilo City officials traded accusations of irregularities in the conduct of the campaign of SK federation president candidates who are all relatives of the officials.

City Councilor Antonio Pesina criticized Vice Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog for holding parties and gatherings of SK chairs to get their support for Mabilog's nephew, John Melchor Mabilog.

All in the family

John Melchor was one of the three candidates vying for president of Iloilo City's 180-member SK federation. The other candidates are Pesina's daughter Keshna and Frances Grace Parcon, daughter of city councilor Armand Parcon.

Pesina accused Mabilog of holding a party for SK chairs at the Mabilog compound in Molo District here Wednesday night.

But Mabilog said it was a birthday party organized by his nephew's parents. The vice mayor claimed that the other candidates also hosted parties and gatherings for SK chairs.

In Maasin City in Leyte, 68 SK chairs were gathered on the eve of the elections for SK federation president at a pension house owned by the family of Southern Leyte Gov. Damian Mercado and his brother, Rep. Roger Mercado.

P1,000 per vote

There were allegations of vote-buying of up to P1,000 for Barangay Lunas SK president Rona Epiz, who was backed by the incumbent city administration.

Maasin City Mayor Maloney Samaco, however, denied having knowledge of the alleged vote-buying.

In Cebu City, the candidate endorsed by Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña readily won against her three opponents.

Osmeña earlier confirmed he "spread the word" that he favored Rengelle Pelayo, 17-year-old SK chair of Barangay Buhisan because she has great potential.

In Dumanjug town, Cebu, a University of Philippines Cebu psychology student expressed dismay over the intervention of politicians in the elections. *Nestor P. Burgos, Jani Arnaiz, Carla P. Gomez, Jhunnex Napallacan*

Army frees alleged NPA tax collector

LUCENA CITY—THE MILITARY YESTERDAY released an alleged New People's Army (NPA) tax collector in Quezon as a petition for the writ of amparo filed by his son was being heard by the regional trial court here.

State Solicitor Bernardo Villar insisted that the petition "is now moot and academic" following the release of Dindo David from city jail and asked yesterday Judge Bienvenido Mapaye of RTC Branch 55 to dismiss it.

But Rey Oliver Alejandrino, lawyer of the petitioner Rafael David, argued that the hearing must continue as the case "also encompasses the protection of the constitutional rights of a citizen—that his rights would no longer be violated, especially by the agents of the state."

David "was arrested and detained illegally," he said.

According to a military report, David, alias "Ka Elex," was arrested on Sunday on the city outskirts by members of the Army's 1st Special Forces Company and the local police.

It said the suspect yielded a .45-cal. pistol and several bullets and charged with illegal possession of firearms.

Aside from being an alleged member of the executive committee of the Quezon Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the military tagged David as an official of the NPA's "White Area Committee" in the province and in charge of collecting "taxes" for the rebels. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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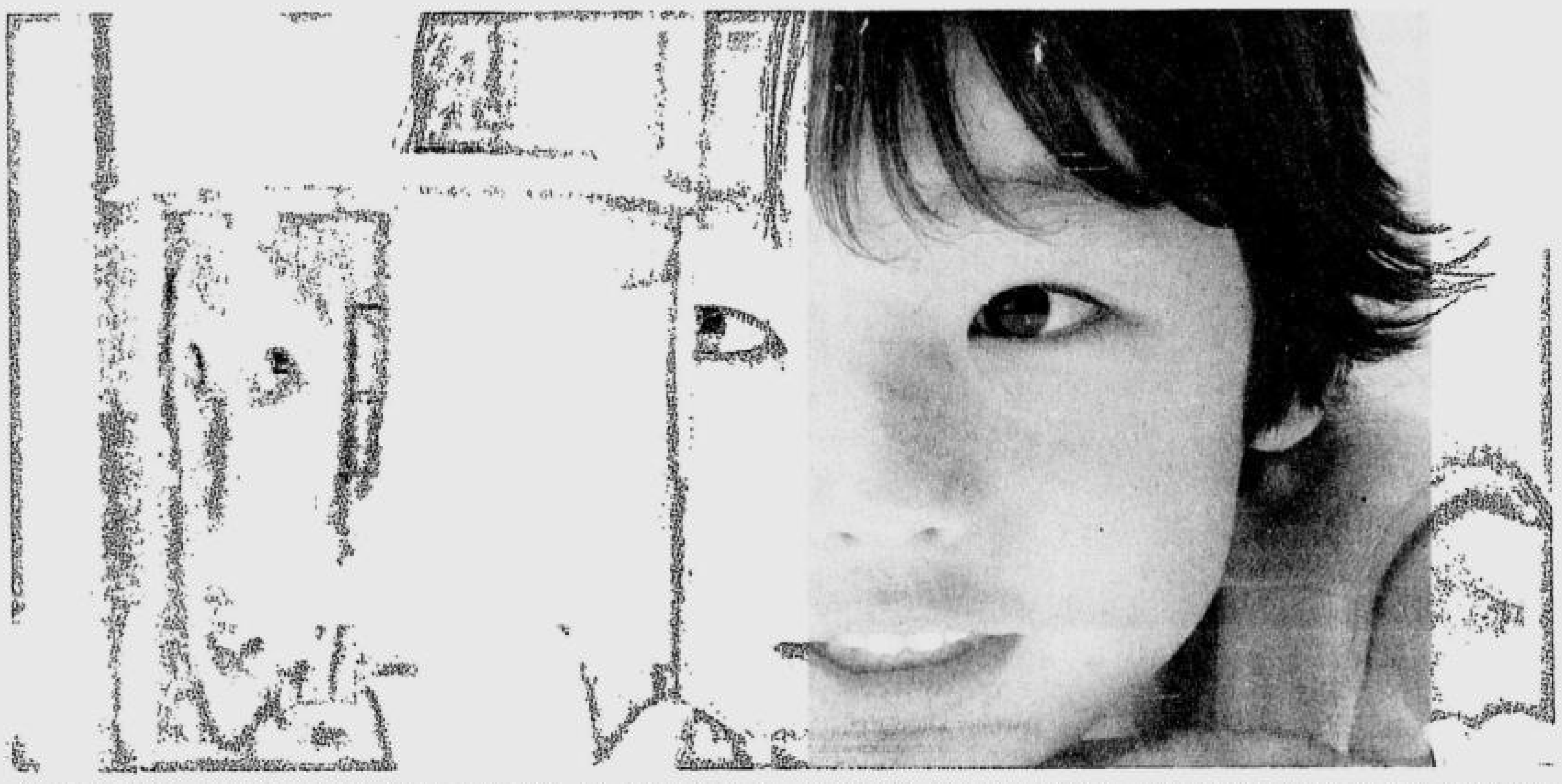

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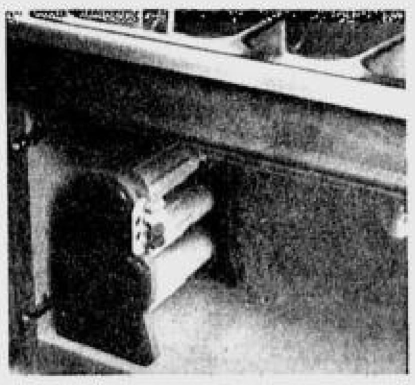

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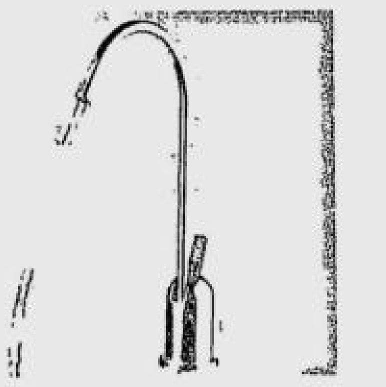

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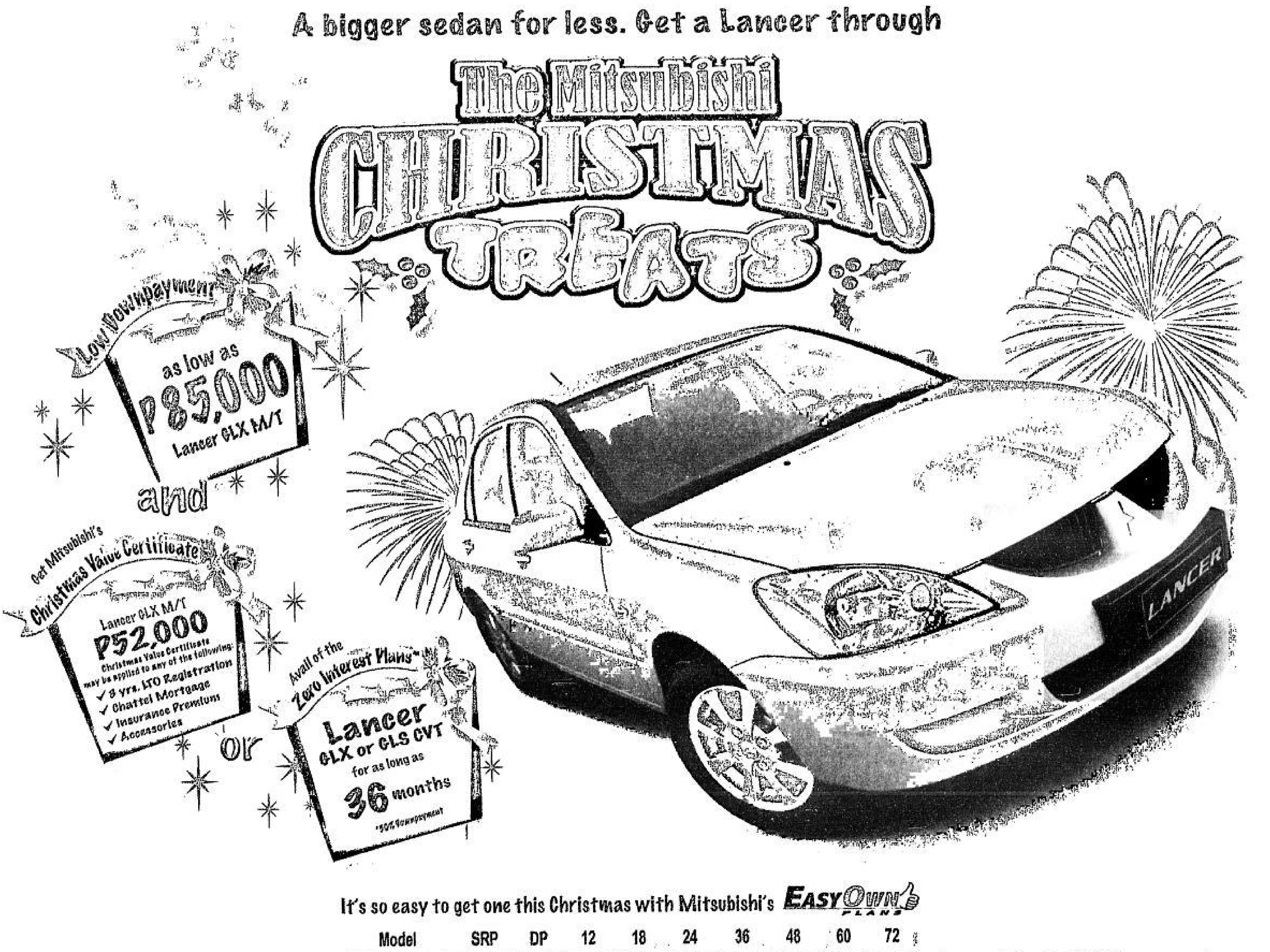

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Trillanes considered marching on Senate to claim seat

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nikko Dizon

FOR ONE FLEETING MOMENT, former Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV considered marching on the Senate to claim the seat he won with 11 million votes in the May elections.

He quickly shot down the idea after walking out of his coup d'etat trial at the Makati City Hall courtroom and marching on the opulent Peninsula Manila hotel on Nov. 29 in a failed bid to ignite a people power revolt that was crushed seven hours later.

Senator Trillanes recounted the thoughts that crossed his mind on that fateful Thursday during a visit yesterday to his Camp Crame cell by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Light-hearted

Lacson said he tried to keep their meeting with Trillanes "very light-hearted."

"I kidded him that on hindsight, he should have proceeded to the Senate instead of the Manila Pen. He should have gone straight to his seat in the session hall, then he should have asked to be recognized and delivered a privilege speech," said Lacson.

"There wouldn't have been any rebellion case. He could have said more and he would have had the pleasure of saying that he attended his first session."

Lacson said Trillanes admitted he thought of going to the Senate but he saw that some of his supporters were in poor health.

Trillanes mentioned former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, 79, who he said would not be able to keep pace with him in the longer march to the Senate, according to Lacson. Guingona was later hospitalized.

"I told him he should have gotten a cab for Guingona," said Lacson, a former director general of the Philippine National Police.

'The Art of War'

Lacson gave Trillanes a copy of Sun-Tzu's "The Art of War" before he left Camp Crame, where he also visited Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who was arrested with Trillanes at the Peninsula.

Pimentel spent two hours in Trillanes' cell.

"I think the President should be clarified that what Trillanes wants is justice and not her mercy. She should allow him to serve his duty as a duly elected senator," said Pimentel.

"Except for the rough treatment he got during his arrest, he was treated fairly by his captors. I found him physically and mentally alert and very alive," said Pimentel.

Pimentel said that aside from advising Trillanes to stay out of trouble, he told the Magdalo leader to "think twice" before making any major decisions.

'Peaceful demonstration'

Pimentel said that he and Lacson assured Trillanes that "we continue to support the proposition that you are entitled to all the protection provided to you as a senator and that you are also entitled to due process."

"Of course, he was fighting for his cause. He believes that they have not done anything wrong, that it was a peaceful demonstration," Pimentel told reporters under a light rain.

Asked what Trillanes' message for the public was, Pimentel said: *"Yung karapatan na pinanindigan nila, ipagtanggol yun* (To defend the right that they stood for). Those are the general terms."

Pimentel said that he met not only with Trillanes but also with Lim, the Magdalo soldiers and the, civilians arrested at the Peninsula.

Pimentel said while he believed that Ms Arroyo "does not deserve to sit there (Malacañang) one minute longer," he did not subscribe to "unconstitutional or extrajudicial ways of ousting Gloria."

No love lost

"There's no love lost between me and Gloria. I want her out soonest but I don't want it through violent means," Pimentel said, citing the "legitimacy issue" against Ms Arroyo, who is accused of stealing the 2004 presidential election.

Pimentel said he reminded Trillanes that the 11 million people who voted for him wanted him to serve as a senator "but not as a leader of an undertaking to oust the President."

"That is not automatic, that the 11 million who voted for you will (follow) when you say let's march and oust Gloria. No, that is not going to happen automatically, " Pimentel recalled telling Trillanes.

No mercy for Trillanes, GMA bares tough stance in London

From page A1

rule of law prevailed."

"The transgressors will not hold this nation hostage with impunity. They will be punished to the full extent of the law. Justice shall be served and the interest of the people upheld," said the President.

Noting the presence in the crowd of Ambassador to the Court of St. James's Edgardo Espiritu, finance secretary during the truncated presidency of Joseph Estrada, Ms Arroyo also justified her decision to pardon her predecessor.

"The trial and conviction of the former President was a major step forward for the rule of law in the Philippines. It proved that no one is above the law when it comes to meting out punishment, including former presidents," she said.

Tough choice

Ms Arroyo said she "honored" Estrada's request for a pardon "because I believe in the country's interest."

"It was a tough choice, but I have never been one to shy away from making tough choices when it comes to moving the nation forward," she said, eliciting applause from the crowd of about 200 gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel to welcome her.

The President called on the nation to "put this black chapter in our country's history behind us and concentrate on what is really important for our people, which is to ensure that all Filipinos benefit from the fruits of our economic progress."

Security lapses

In Manila, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita dismissed suggestions that Malacañang investigate the intelligence agencies for their failure to detect and prevent the standoff, saying there were voluminous reports from all over the country and a continuing opposition effort to destabilize the country.

However, he said the Armed Forces of the Philippines was looking into security lapses in the incident.

Trillanes, 36, a former Navy lieutenant charged in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, 52, former Scout Ranger regiment commander detained for a failed coup in February 2006, walked out of a coup d'etat hearing on Nov. 29 at the Makati City Hall and seized the Peninsula, located 3 kilometers away.

The two have been charged with rebellion along with former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, 79; Bishop Emeritus Julio Labayen, 81; running priest Robert Reyes and 32 other civilians and rebel soldiers.

Muntinlupa move deferred

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said yesterday that the Department of Justice had decided to defer filing a motion to transfer the Trillanes group from the custodial center at Camp Crame to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

"Aside from judicial courtesy, it would be incongruous to file right away for a motion for transfer of venue because it would have to be determined by the judge in what we call a judicial determination of probable cause if he will issue warrants of arrest. Of course, we have to wait for that," Velasco said.

Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Marius Corpus on Tuesday announced plans to move the group to Muntinlupa.

Guingona yesterday asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to conduct a preliminary investigation, and to hold in abeyance the issuance of a warrant for his arrest pending the resolution of the preliminary investigation. He was hospitalized for an unspecified ailment following the standoff.

He said the justice department had conducted no preliminary investigation, giving none of the accused the opportunity to submit their counter-affidavit.

Lawyers JV Bautista and Argee Guevarra in a separate motion for judicial determination of probable cause, also sought the dismissal of the charges against them and their release.

They argued that they were in the vicinity of the hotel "to lawyer and extend legal assistance" to the rebel soldiers.

Hunt continues

The hunt for Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon and at least two other soldiers who fled after the standoff continued.

Chief Supt. Atilano Morada, chief of the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG), said yesterday that aviation police in airports across the country were on the lookout for the rebel soldiers.

"We have been on alert and we have intelligence agents around the airports. If there is high-level information, we coordinate with other law enforcement agencies," said Morada in a telephone interview.

Pfc. Alvin Celestino, a Marine implicated in the failed revolt, had tried to board a US-bound flight around 3:50 a.m. on Wednesday but police and military agents caught up with him at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1. *With reports from DJ Yap, Christine O. Avendaño and Tarra Quismundo*

Sumilao farmers: We smell betrayal of DAR secretary

From page A1

Bulut said his panel was obliged to extend CARP, due to expire next year. "We hope to address the loopholes in the law. That will be where we may institute reforms," he said.

The farmers, who walked all the way from Sumilao to Manila for two months to press their demands, later proceeded to the Department of Agrarian Reform, vowing not to leave until Pangandaman decided on their case.

Pangandaman met with the farmers briefly last night and told them that he was giving the two parties to the controversy three days to submit their position papers before he makes his decision.

Cease-and-desist order

Marlon Manuel, a lawyer of the farmers, told reporters that "Pangandaman seemed to be cooking up arguments to avoid issuing a cease-and-desist order" against SMFI, a subsidiary of the San Miguel conglomerate, and placing the property under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

He said the facts of the case remained "plain and simple," since the land was awarded to the farmers through the issuance of collective land ownership awards (CLOAs).

Norberto Quisumbing, who then owned the land, applied for conversion and proposed a five-year development plan.

Malacañang approved the conversion based on the proposed plan. The farmers protested it, but the Supreme Court upheld the order, and the CLOAs of the farmers were cancelled.

The farmers said Quisumbing did not implement the development plan, thus violating the terms of the conversion order. The farmers said the conversion period had lapsed but Quisumbing sold the land to SMFI.

The farmers said SMFI did not comply with the conversion plan either so the land should be covered by CARP and redistributed to the farmers.

Distorting facts

Manuel also accused Pangandaman of distorting the facts when he said that the conversion period started with the issuance by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) of a development permit.

"The HLURB permit was issued to SMFI for construction of the hog farm. It has nothing to do with the conversion. Why did Quisumbing not apply for a development permit during the five years of conversion period? The answer should be obvious to Pangandaman. Quisumbing performed a hoax. He did not intend to develop the land," Manuel said.

Manuel also belittled Pangandaman's claim that the sale of the land was aboveboard and expressed doubt whether a sale really took place between Quisumbing and SMFI.

Conversion order

"We have not seen a copy of the deed of sale. We have been asking for a copy and they're not providing it," Manuel said.

On Wednesday, Pangandaman said there were several unassailable facts that would guide him in deciding on the farmers' demand to issue a cease-and-desist order against the construction of a hog farm on the property by SMFI which bought the property from Quisumbing in 2002.

He said that the conversion order issued by Malacañang in 1994 and upheld by the Supreme Court in 1999 still stands, and that the CARP law did not state that a new owner of a disputed property was bound by the conversion pledges made by the previous owner.

Pangandaman also said that the five-year period in which the landowner should have implemented the development plan as required by the conversion order started only in 2004 upon issuance of a development permit by the HLURB.

Pangandaman also noted that the sale of the property to SMFI appeared aboveboard.

SMFI development plan

In a statement yesterday, SMFI said that it was invited by the local government to invest in Sumilao, where the primary income was growing corn which was subject to fluctuating prices.

SMFI said that to improve livelihood of both farmers and other residents it committed to build a multibillion-peso state-of-the-art vertically integrated agro-industrial estate for Sumilao. It will be equipped with modern feedmills, poultry and piggery farms, wastewater treatment facilities, a reservoir and provisions for forest development.

It said the blueprint was done in consultation with the farmers, who have since joined the protest movement.

P2.4-B investment

SMFI said that to date, 21 of 40 buildings that will make up the agro-industrial estate had been completed. Investment in Sumilao will amount to an estimated P2.4 billion, which it said was far greater than any projected future value of the land.

With a report from Norman Bordadora

Activists from 2 generations mourn death of 'Sir Nic'

From page A1

lose for a revolutionary cause.

After lapsing into a coma a year ago, Atienza succumbed to throat cancer on Wednesday afternoon at his home on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, where he taught Rizal and Pilipino subjects.

"Nic," who in the 1960s became secretary general of the militant Kabataang Makabayan and in 2003 worked to reorganize the old street cadres from the historic First Quarter Storm (FQS) marches of 1970, was 60 years old.

Disease finally felled the man who, some three decades ago, barely survived the torture chambers of the martial law regime and later an assassination attempt allegedly carried out by the post-Marcos military.

In separate interviews yesterday with the INQUIRER, two of Atienza's close friends—Boni Ilagan, chair of the FQS Movement of which Nic was founding president, and UP professor Luis Teodoro—remembered the man for his convictions, which were neither eroded by time nor bowed for expediency.

With a tone of reverence, Ilagan and Teodoro both described Atienza as one of the most "heavily tortured" detainees during martial law.

A UP student who went underground two years before martial law was declared in 1972, Atienza was arrested in 1974. He was about 27.

Never bowed to torturers

Atienza's genitals were "burned," the two men said, although their memories conflicted. Ilagan said the torturers used rolled-up newspapers or comic books for a torch; Teodoro said a lighter was used.

This was on top of the other brutalities—electric shock, sleep deprivation, being left naked in a room with the air-conditioner going full-blast and repeated beatings.

Atienza was also injected with "truth serum" to induce a confession, Ilagan said.

He will be praised for many things, but his "biggest triumph was that he never bowed to his torturers," Ilagan said. "He did not crack and send more into the hands of the enemy."

Nervous breakdown

Atienza eventually suffered a nervous breakdown during his detention and was brought to the V. Luna military hospital. He was still a patient there when he was released in 1980, or six years after his arrest, Ilagan said.

Both Ilagan and Teodoro said Atienza might have emerged psychologically scarred from the ordeal.

He seemed more short-tempered, for one thing, Teodoro noted.

Except for a TV interview he granted in 2003, Atienza never spoke publicly about what the then Philippine Constabulary, including a lieutenant named Rodolfo Aguinaldo (later to become governor of Cagayan), did to him in Camp Crame, Ilagan noted.

When both of them were still in prison, Ilagan said, "I saw him being dragged by two escorts [after a torture session] back to his cell. All he had was this blank stare."

More severely than others

"He was tortured more severely than the others probably because he was suspected of being a ranking officer of the communist party and, therefore, knew a lot about the leadership structure," Ilagan, a playwright who himself endured two years in jail, surmised.

Ilagan recalled that he, Atienza and others were held in what was supposed to be Camp Crame's armory—"thick walls, steel doors, one-foot-by-one-foot windows, a place not built for human habitation."

There were no toilets in the cells. The inmates were provided biscuit cans and old newspapers for their use.

The inmates could hear torture sessions going on in adjacent rooms, and Ilagan was convinced that the PC deliberately let others hear what was going on.

Still fiery

After his release, Atienza was able to re-enroll at UP, and shifted courses from political science to Philippine studies, Ilagan said.

He eventually secured a teaching position at the university and resumed his "fight" as a fiery, sought-after speaker in student forums and as a supporter of progressive groups.

Once, shortly after Edsa I in 1986, Teodoro and Atienza were on their way to a colleague's birthday party.

But the latter decided to turn back upon seeing certain guests at the venue: It was one of those weird occasions when officers of the rightwing Reform the Armed Forces Movement got to mingle with the leftist set.

"I see one of my torturers among them. I think we're no longer needed here," Teodoro recalled his hesitant friend saying.

No demand for compensation

And more of Atienza's true grit showed when the time of reckoning with his jailers finally came: He distanced himself from moves by fellow detainees to demand compensation from the Marcos regime.

Said Ilagan: "He had a different view. I remember him saying, 'What I went through cannot be compensated in terms of pesos.'

"But he did not stop anyone [from demanding compensation], and did not campaign against it."

Added Teodoro: "'I never thought of receiving any reward for fighting the dictatorship.' That's how he also put it."

Ambush

Atienza, a native of Cuenca, Batangas, would have his next brush with death shortly after Edsa I. (Teodoro said Atienza was disappointed with the results of both Edsa I and II, in which he took part.)

In 1987, Atienza, Bernabe Buscayno, former communist guerrilla commander and then senatorial candidate, and three companions were ambushed in their car by a suspected military death squad.

A piece of shrapnel became embedded in Atienza's head, and a leg wound sustained from that attack never healed up to the time he had a heart attack in December 2006.

Until then, a mass in his throat that blocked his air passage had remained undetected. He was diagnosed with cancer.

Fund-raisers were held to pay for his continued stay at the Philippine General Hospital, and among those who pitched in were a left-leaning party-list group and a few lawmakers, Ilagan said.

After seven months, friends from the FQS Movement decided to bring him home.

Atienza, who lived apart from his wife and their two sons after he was released from detention, died with two caregivers hired by his comrades at his bedside, Ilagan said.

In less than 24 hours, the first eulogies came in the blogs of his UP students—those who were not even born yet when their "Sir Nic" was being brutalized for his cause.

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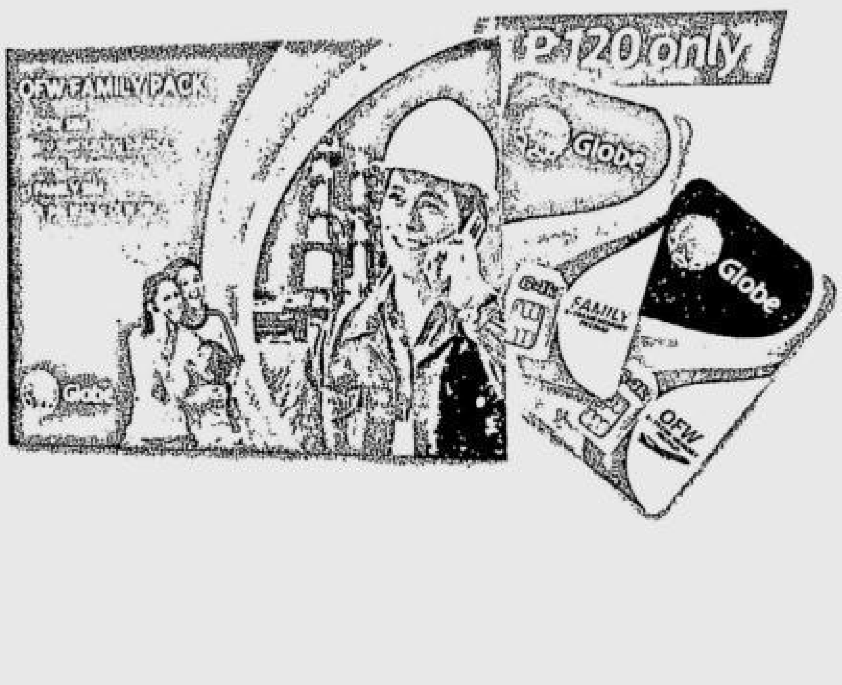

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3 detainees nabbed after prison break

3 more missing from San Juan cell; broomstick used to destroy latch

By Kristine L. Alave

SIX DETAINEES OF THE SAN Juan city jail escaped at dawn Thursday by destroying the prison door's cement latch and escaping through a hole in the wall.

Three were arrested more than an hour after they fled at 2:30 a.m.

The police identified two of the escapees as Marcelino Pamintuan, 21, and Joemike Dacanay, 22, both San Juan residents.

They were found in their relatives' houses in Corazon de Jesus and Barangay St. Joseph, police said.

Guillermo Lacson, 32, of Barangay Tumana, Marikina City, was captured around 4 p.m. in Sta. Teresita Village, Malanday by barangay chair Narciso dela Cruz, the Marikina City police said.

Lacson, who is facing child abuse charges, was handed over to the San Juan City police.

SPO1 Leonito Iringan reported that the three other detainees still at large were Alberto Panelo, 30, of Corazon de Jesus; Rigor Alejandra, 24, of Barangay Damayan Lagi, Quezon City; and Manolito Ong, 20, of Sampaloc, Manila.

Supt. Rodelio Jocson, San Juan City police chief, said the detainees took advantage of the fact that there was an ongoing renovation of the city's police station where the jail was located.

He said the detainees used a broomstick to destroy the latch of their metal door. The men then climbed towards an opening above a wall in the back.

Dacanay and Pamintuan tagged Panelo as the mastermind of the escape plan. They told police that they escaped because they just wanted to visit their families.

Jocson said that before the incident, he wanted to transfer the inmates to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology regional jail while the San Juan City police station was being renovated.

But Jocson said the request was rejected as the BJMP wanted a commitment order from the court. The San Juan City police had in their custody 22 detainees before the escape.

Engineering licensure tests set Jan. 12

By Margaux C. Ortiz

CIVIL ENGINEERING GRADUATES will have to retake the licensure tests on Jan. 12 despite opposition from examinees.

This was announced yesterday by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), which nullified the results of the Nov. 17-18 examinations.

The commission announced on Nov. 26 that test results in two of three subjects—Hydraulics and Geotechnical Engineering and Structural Engineering and Construction—would be nullified after two examinees were caught cheating.

The two were found to have used cell phones with answers to 30 questions, of which 21 were correct.

The PRC also said the examinees' "unusually high grades" in hydraulics were "statistically improbable."

Examinees petitioned the PRC to set aside its ruling. Commission chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero said they had yet to decide on the petition.

Rosero held a dialogue with examinees and their lawyers yesterday morning.

"It was explained to us that if the PRC decides favorably on the petition, those who fail the Jan. 12 exams but passed the November tests will be able to obtain their licenses," Jobert Pahilga, lawyer of the civil engineering graduates, said.

But if the PRC dismisses the petition, students who fail in the Jan. 12 tests and those who choose not to take them would have to pass the next licensure tests.

Pahilga said that if the PRC turned down the petition, they may bring the case to court.

But he stressed that the students were pushing for the immediate release of the November exam results and the cancellation of the retake order.

3 suspected robbers killed

By Julie M. Aurelio

THREE SUSPECTED ARMED ROBBERS died and a policeman was wounded in a shootout Wednesday night.

A fourth suspect was arrested.

The suspects allegedly tried to rob passengers of a Mitsubishi L-300 van bound for Molina, Cavite province along the East Service Road in Muntinlupa City.

Muntinlupa City police chief Supt. Alfredo Valdez identified the casualties as George Armenta, 29, of Upper Bicutan, Taguig City; Gary Robel and Eduardo Ulit, of Carmina Compound, Barangay Cupang, Muntinlupa. The three died at the Ospital ng Muntinlupa.

PO3 Ronaldo Marbella, a member of the responding police team, was shot in the thigh and was brought to the Alabang Medical Center for treatment.

Arrested was Francis Marigundon, 25, of Merville Balagbag, Parañaque City.

Valdez said the suspects belonged to the Marigundon-Armenta crime group that operates in the cities of Muntinlupa, Parañaque and Las Piñas. An initial investigation showed that the suspects boarded the van (ZBU-119) driven by Erick Gonzales at around 7:30 p.m. Wednesday along Daang Hari road near the Muntinlupa and Parañaque border.

The suspects announced a holdup and ordered the driver to head back to the South Luzon Expressway through the Sucat exit.

Valdez said patrolling cops noticed the commotion inside the van and gave chase.

Responding SWAT members intercepted the vehicle at the Alabang area but said the suspects fired at them.

Valdez said they initially did not return fire for fear of hitting the passengers.

The policemen then fired at the suspects when they tried to get off on Posadas Street.

The van's passengers were Marvin Garcia, Michael Orcullo, Genalyn Ecle, Jeanete Cabaguing, Sonny Doninia, Loreto Dizon, Michael Otazu and Wei Li.

According to Valdez, Garcia suffered a gun shot wound and is confined at the Ospital ng Muntinlupa.

METROBRIEFS

2 dead in Tondo fire

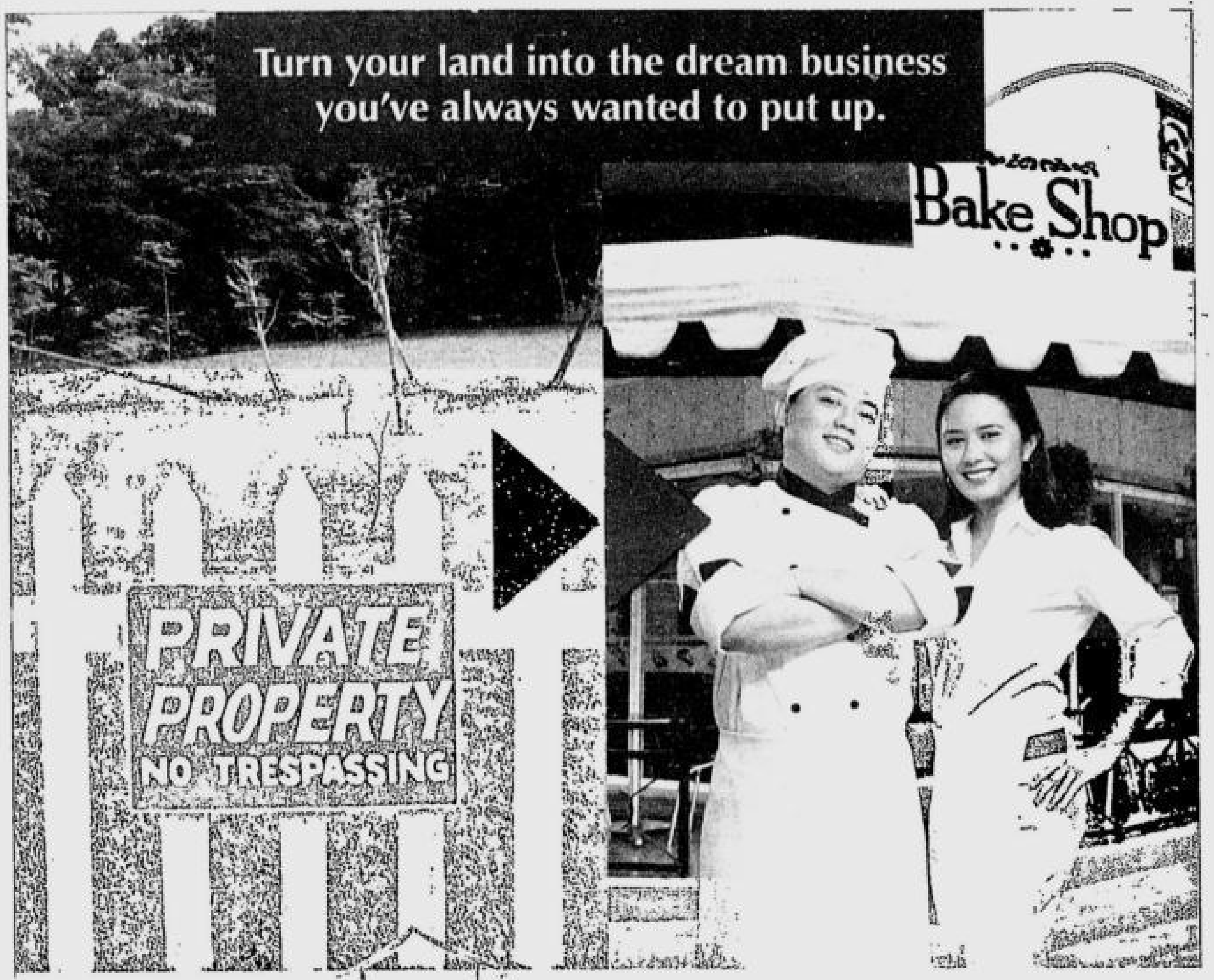
TWO MEN died while two others were hurt in a fire that razed a rice cake factory early yesterday morning in Tondo, Manila. Supt. Pablito Cordeta, Manila fire marshal, identified the fatalities as Dodo Cayoca and Victor Liwanag, both employees of the factory. Alex Mallari, 34, and Joctan Coyoca, on the other hand, remain under observation at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital. Arson investigator SFO4 Emmanuel Gaspar, said the fire started at the second floor of the two-story house at 294 Sandico corner Llanera Street. It reached the fifth alarm and quickly spread to adjacent structures, damaging two more houses. Fire officials said they have yet to determine the cause of the blaze but some neighbors initially linked it to a Liquefied Petroleum Gas explosion. Estimated damage to property was placed at P400,000. Meanwhile, a fire hit a handicrafts and antique shop in Malate, Manila Wednesday night. The fire destroyed the Truly Asia Handicraft and Antique Furniture shop at the corner of Adriatico and Nakpil Streets. *Tina G. Santos*

QC cop accused of 'abrasive' behavior

QUEZON City Police District (QCPD) Director Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula has ordered an investigation into the alleged rough treatment by his investigation chief of a female television reporter and her crew last Friday. Gatdula directed QCPD District Intelligence and Detective Management (DIDM) head Supt. Felicidad Dido to initiate an administrative probe on the incident involving Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU) head Supt. Franklin Mabanag and GMA 7 reporter Rawna Crisostomo, who was following up a story, claimed to have received abrasive treatment from the QCPD-CIDU chief when she and her crew went to his office. "I do not know what happened there (Mabanag's office) but I have tasked the DIDM to look thoroughly into the matter," the QCPD Director said. *Jeannette I. Andrade*

Gunmen kill funeral parlor security guard

A 36-YEAR-OLD security guard was shot dead by five gunmen right in front of the funeral parlor where he worked before dawn yesterday in Quezon City. Cesito Fruedas, assigned to guard the Blessed Funeral Homes at Purok 2 Luzon Avenue, Barangay Culiat, in Tandang Sora, died on arrival at the Gen. Malvar Hospital from multiple bullet wounds in the body. His assailants remain unidentified. *Jeannette I. Andrade*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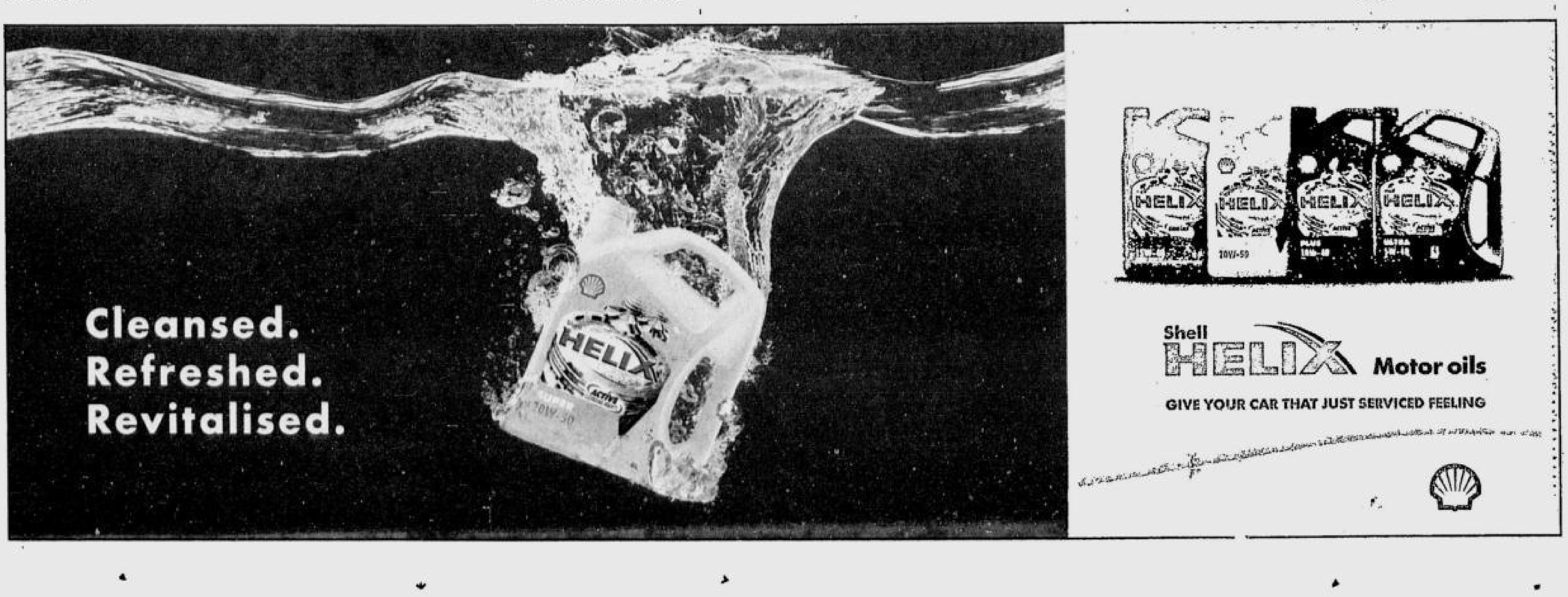

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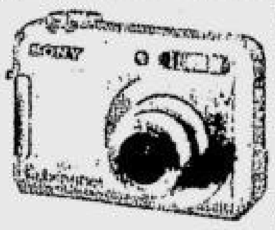

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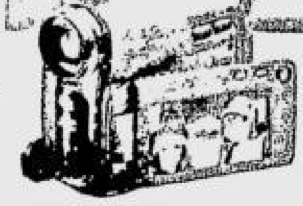

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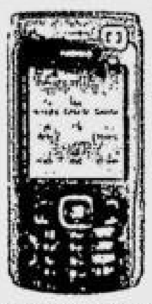

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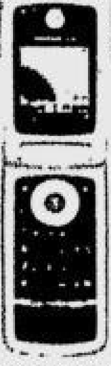

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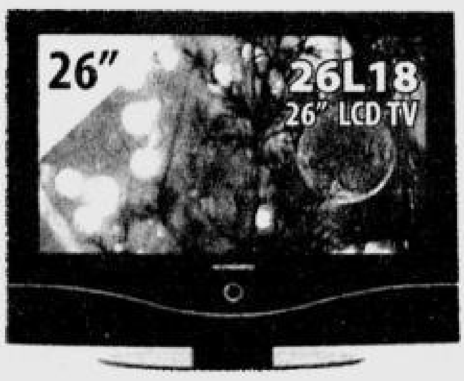

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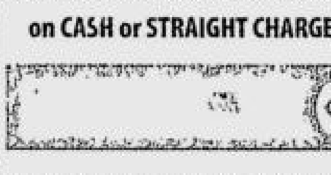

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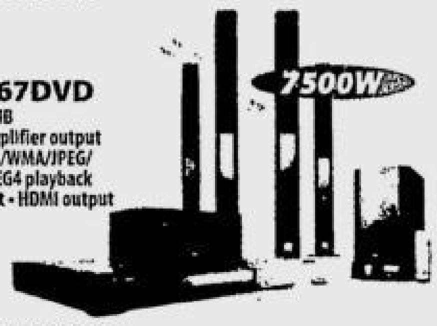

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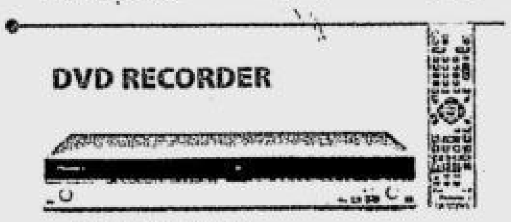

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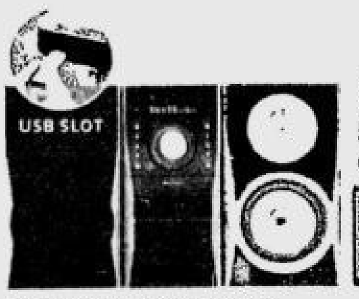

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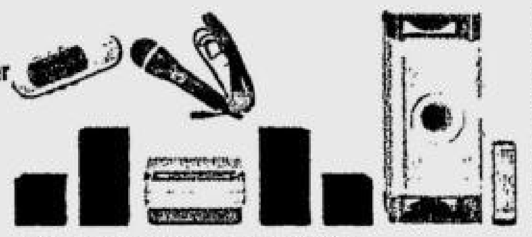

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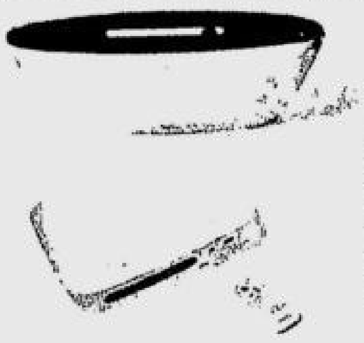

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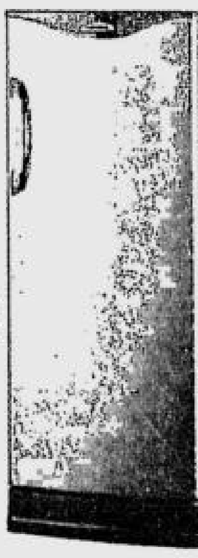

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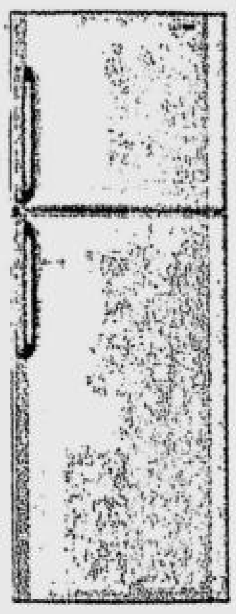

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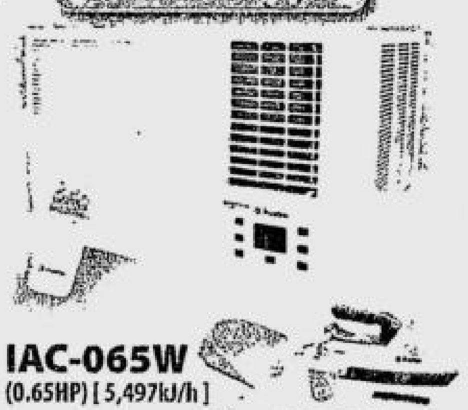

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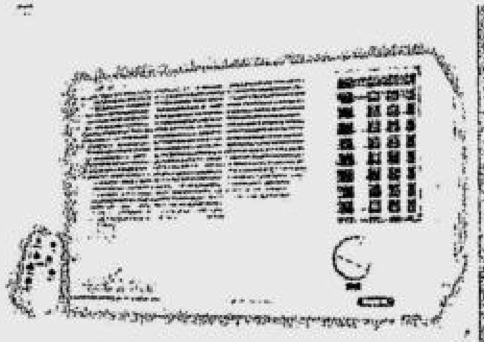

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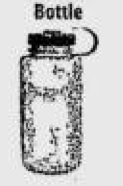

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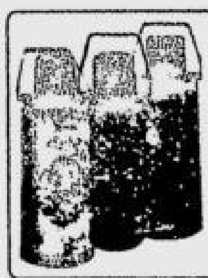

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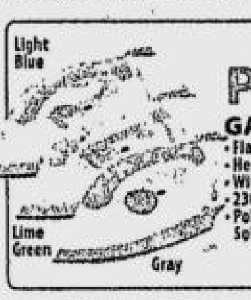

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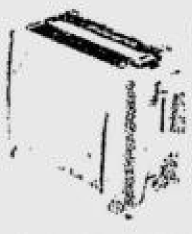

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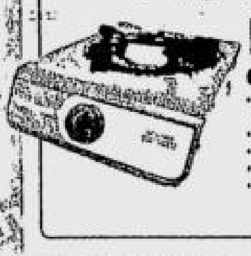

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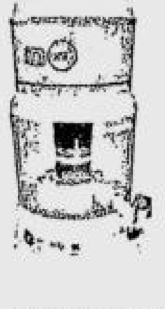

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush told in August of new Iran report

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH was told in August that Iran may have suspended its nuclear weapons program, the White House said on Wednesday, a day after Bush said he was not given a full report on the issue.

A new intelligence estimate released on Monday said Iran had stopped its nuclear weapons program in the fall of 2003, raising questions about whether the president was aware of that when he increased his rhetoric against Tehran.

Bush for months has called Iran a threat and in October raised the specter of World War III if it acquired a nuclear weapon.

Some Democrats seized on this week's intelligence report to suggest Bush took an aggressive stance against Iran even though he knew that US intelligence had a different picture of the threat posed by Tehran.

During a news conference on Tuesday, Bush said he was informed of the intelligence report last week, but said US intelligence chief Mike McConnell told him in August there was new information on Iran.

"He didn't tell me what the information was. He did tell me it was going to take a while to analyze," Bush said.

On Wednesday, White House spokesperson Dana Perino said McConnell told Bush in August that Iran may have suspended its nuclear weapons program and that the new information might cause the intelligence community to change its assessment on Iran.

McConnell told the president that new information had been obtained on Iran just as the intelligence agencies were about to finalize the report and that they would not be able to meet a congressional deadline for the estimate, she said.

"He (McConnell) said that if the new information turns out to be true, what we thought we knew for sure is right. Iran does in fact have a covert nuclear weapons program, but it may be suspended," Perino said.

McConnell advised the president that it would take more time to vet the information and determine its validity, she said.

After the new National Intelligence Estimate was released, critics accused Bush of hyping the threat from Iran, and some suggested similarities with the administration's much-criticized handling of prewar intelligence on Iraq.

One of the main justifications for the US-led March 2003 invasion of Iraq was that it had weapons of mass destruction, which were never found.

Bush and his administration have for months been trying to increase international pressure on Iran over its nuclear program through more UN Security Council sanctions and by ratcheting up the rhetoric. *Reuters*

Teen opens fire at Omaha mall, kills 8

OMAHA, NEB.—A GUNMAN IN CAMOUFLAGE, wielding a rifle opened fire in an Omaha mall crowded with holiday shoppers on Wednesday, killing eight people and wounding five others, two of them critically, before turning the gun on himself.

The gunman, identified by the authorities as Robert A. Hawkins, 19, was described by friends and relatives as a depressed person who had struggled to hold a job.

Hawkins wrote a suicide note talking about his desire to become famous, which his mother gave to police, KETV said.

"We do have a (suicide) note," Omaha police chief Thomas Warren said, adding that Hawkins was armed with an SKS assault rifle.

Hawkins' landlady, Debora Maruca Kovac, told CNN television that Hawkins' note said "that he was sorry for everything, that he didn't want to be a burden to anybody, he loved his family, he loved all of his friends. He was a piece of shit all of his life and now he'll be famous."

Kovac said that Hawkins had lived in her house for a year and a half, and had recently broken up with his girlfriend.

"He was withdrawn," she said. "He was like a lost pound puppy that nobody wanted... He had a lot of emotional problems."

The Omaha World Herald newspaper reported that Hawkins had also been fired from his job at a McDonald's, and was arrested Friday for being a minor in possession of alcohol—the legal drinking age in the United States is 21.

The newspaper said he had been sent to jail for seven days in 2005 on charges of disorderly conduct.

Witnesses said they hid in bathrooms, closets and under racks of clothes, some praying as an estimated two dozen shots echoed through the mall.

The gunman shot one man in the head from a third-floor balcony and others at point-blank range, witnesses said. Most of the victims were shot inside the Von Maur department store near the children's clothing area.

Shoppers and store clerks described a surreal scene of panic and chaos after they heard shots ring out even as a pianist at the Westroads Mall played on.

Many witnesses dived into closets and storage rooms, crouched in dressing rooms, crowded behind desks and then began what became a long and terrifying wait, punctuated by more shots.

"All I could think was where is he, what if comes through that door, what if he comes through right now," recalled Kevin Kleine, 29, a shopper who hid in a storage room with her 4-year-old daughter, Emily, and four women she had never met.

The group pushed every table, rack and garbage can they could find against the door and huddled behind clothes, making hushed calls to 911, to their husbands and to their parents.

Then began the long wait, 30 minutes, Kleine said, staring at that door.

It was believed to be the deadliest shooting incident in Nebraska history. As the state's most populous city, with 419,000 residents, Omaha, along the Missouri River, has elements of urban woes like drugs and gangs.

Still, Kleine, said: "I've never even heard gunshots here before. Honestly, I didn't know what they sounded like until today, and I thought I never would."

Visitors to the mall said they were eating lunch and browsing in stores when three or four shots sounded just after 1:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Von Maur department store.

As four more shots popped, people scrambled for cover. Some screamed. Others ran, dropped to the floor or searched for doors and dressing rooms and employee lounges.

Scores of police officers began swarming to the mall six minutes after the first call, police officials said. They locked down the mall, surrounding it. Police went store to store, finding clusters of people and ushering them out. Eventually, the police found the gunman's body. *NYT, AFP, Reuters*

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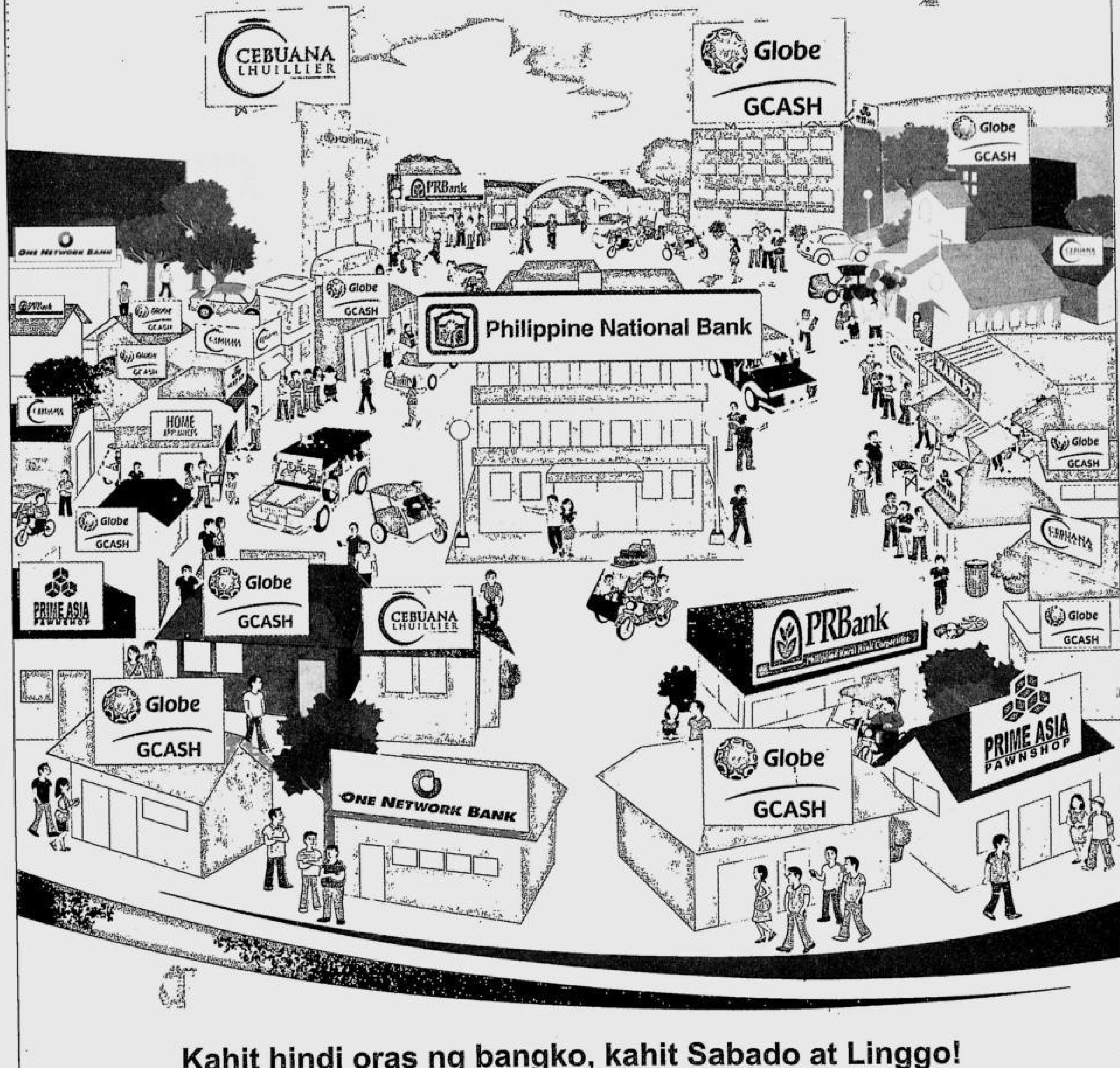

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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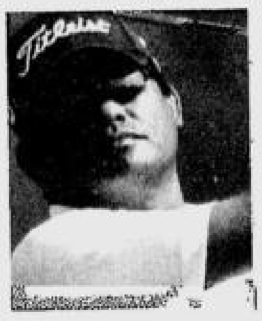
Miñoza two shots off lead /A32



Gutsy first gold for Philippines

Cyclist Barba rules downhill run

By Ernesto A. Gonzales
Sports Features Editor

ICE BREAKER: Rider Joey Barba shows his well-earned gold. RAFFY LERMA

NAKHON RATCHSIMA—ONE of the most daunting events in cycling finally rewarded the Philippines with a breakthrough gold medal to boost its sagging spirits even before the formal opening of the 24th Southeast Asian Games Thursday at the Main Stadium here.

Mountain biker Joey Barba, a carpenter's son from Dumaguete, ignored the danger posed by the rugged mountain trail in the men's downhill run to win by almost three seconds at the end of the 1.9-kilometer event.

Barba, his elbows and knees tattooed by scars from spills that are common in his sport, timed three minutes 56.920 seconds as the Filipinos crashed the gold medal rank after the shooters' winless performance last week in Bangkok.

A bronze by the women's team in the hoop event of sepak takraw gave the Filipinos a 1-3-3 gold-silver-bronze medal output with the Games going full blast Friday with action in 20 of 42 events.

The Filipinos are actually the defending overall champions but even their top officials have acknowledged the futility of reprising their great effort back home in 2005 mainly because the Thais won't dare lose on the occasion of their King's 80th birthday.

Barba's gutsy plunge through a one-meter wide rock-strewn path carved out of a mountainside left Indonesia still without a gold as Aryo Sejati Popo placed second in 3:59.380. Thailand's s Ketkaewmanee, the fastest in the seeding run Wednesday over Barba, was third

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GUTSY/ A28

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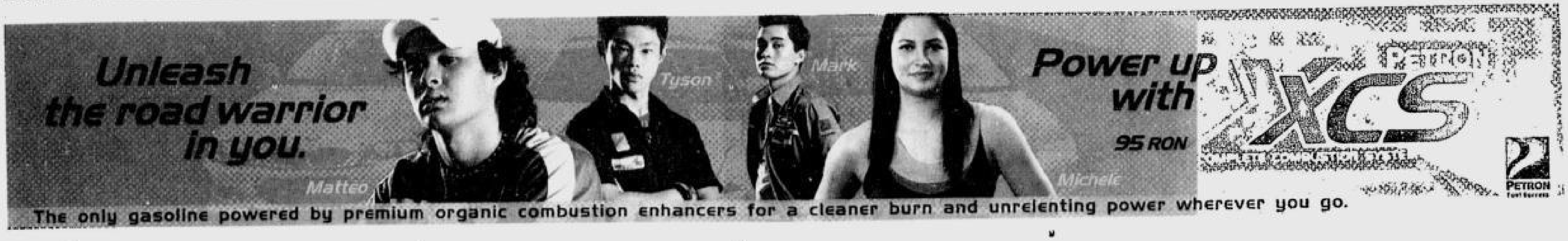

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Breakthrough for Barba

FILIPINO Joey Barba crosses a footbridge on Khao Yai Thieng Hill in Nakhon Ratchasima, which serves as the downhill run's finish line. RAFFY LERMA

By Musong R. Castillo

KHAO YAI THIENG, Thailand—The first sign that things are finally looking up for the Philippines at the 24th Southeast Asian Games here came from a mountain biker who, ironically, excels in going down.

Lured out of school by his love for riding, Joey Barba will go down as the first athlete to give the battered RP contingent a golden performance in these Games, an upset of sorts after he turned back a fancied Thai in Thursday's downhill finals.

"I still can't believe it," Barba said in Filipino, moments after the victory at the Khao Yai Thieng Lamtakong Dam here, about 60 kilometers from the main venue in Nakhon Ratchasima province.

Barba clocked 3 minutes and 56.920 seconds, more than two seconds faster than Popo Arijo Sejati and almost four seconds quicker than German-coached Thai Sitichai Ketkaewmanee, the seeding run's topnotcher.

The 22-year-old Barba, who didn't win a medal in his SEAG debut in 2005, hails from Dumaguete and has tried all sorts of sports on two wheels, including X-Games BMX, cross country mountain biking and even motocross.

Meanwhile, Erik Feliciano will try to scoop up a second gold for the mountain bikers when he leads the cross-country team that also includes Nino Surban and Eusebio Quiñones on Friday.

Feliciano, a big gun in the Tour Pilipinas cycling marathon, won the bronze in Vietnam in 2003 and the silver in Manila.

SAMANTHA Camille Nierras of the Philippines breaks free from Vietnam's Le Thi Thoung during their crucial women's football match at the Tumbon Muengpug Stadium in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand Wednesday. The Vietnamese, displaying excellent ball control and attacking flair, bombed the Filipinos, 10-0. At left is Marnelli Dimson. RAFFY LERMA

Gutsy first gold for RP

From page A27

this time in 4:00.860.

"Hindi ko inasahan na mananalo. Kinabahan nga ako sa simula pero siniguro ko na walang trouble ang takbo ko (I didn't expect to win. I was nervous at the start but I made sure I avoided trouble)," said Barba, who was second in the event in Danao City behind another Indonesian.

The victory could very well serve as inspiration as the big guns of the country's explosive 2005 campaign get going in their respective sports.

Swimmer Miguel Molina starts his bid to retain three of his titles when he competes in the men's 400 individual medley.

Asian Games 9-ball gold medalist Antonio Gabica joins hands with Marlon Manalo in the 9-ball doubles while Rubilen Amit, a double gold medalist the last time, stakes her 9-ball singles title.

Barba's mountain bike buddies also seek the gold in the men's country team along with reigning women's cross country queen Marities Bitbit.

The men's tennis team led by Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino will also be busy today while the Fil-Am pair of Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua start their bid in beach volleyball.

But the spotlight is expected to fall on the Harbour Centre-Philippine team as basketball returns to the Games after its forced absence in 2005 due to a Fiba suspension. Although ranged against lightweight Cambodia, the Filipinos are expected to go all out in their bid to uphold their supremacy in the sport.

The bronze in sepak takraw came through the team of Irene Apdon, Deseree Autor, Sarah Jane Catain, Gelyn Evora and Rhea Padrigo which scored 550, behind winner Thailand's 590 and Burma's 590.

But the male sepak squad of Danilo Alipan, Harrison Castanares, Joel Carbonilla, Hector Memarion and Metodio Suico Jr. landed only fourth with 600. The Thais again won, this time with 930 followed by Burma (760) and Indonesia (650).

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SEA GAMES Medal Tally

COUNTRY	G	S	B
Thailand	21	20	8
Singapore	10	6	6
Vietnam	7	6	16
Myanmar	2	4	1
Malaysia	2	3	6
Philippines	1	3	3
Indonesia	0	1	5
Laos	0	0	0
Brunei	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0
Timor Leste	0	0	0

In-form Paz out to keep archery titles

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—THE PHILIPPINE archery team led by Amaya Paz gets busy in the 24th Southeast Asian Games on Friday, seeking to at least approximate three golden feats it chalked up two years ago.

Paz, a 22-year-old Psychology senior at the University of the Philippines, leads the Filipinos again as she shoots to retain the individual compound gold and help the team to another title.

"The Indonesians are the chief threats, but we know we have the tools to win again," Paz said at the end of practice Thursday afternoon.

The Filipinos, who also scooped two silver and a bronze in the 2005 Manila Games, are fresh off their victory in the compound event of the recent Asian Championships in China. *Musong R. Castillo*

SMART lights up Christmas tree for seafarers

Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART), through its Global Access Group, and the Luneta Seafarers' Welfare Foundation (LUSWELF) recently took the lead in the symbolic lighting of the SMART Link Christmas Tree set up at the Luneta Seafarers' Welfare Center (LSWC) in TM Kalaw, Manila.

The 30-feet high Christmas Tree is situated in the corner of the Luneta Seafarers' Center, a park built by LUSWELF where manning agencies and seafarers from the maritime offices located nearby can conve rge and u nite regardless of affiliation.

Present during the ceremonies were Vice President Noli De Castro, Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, LUSWELF Chairman Don Ramon Bagatsing, and Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) Pres. Captain Gregorio S. Oca, and Tina Z. Mariano, head of SMART's Global Access Group. SMART Public Affairs Group Head Ramon R. Isberto hosted the event.

Vice President Noli De Castro took the opportunity to thank marinos for helping boost the Philippines' economy, reminding them that seafarers are ambassadors of our country wherever they go, *"Kaya dapat ay maging simbolo kayo ng mahuhusay at matapat na Pilipino* (That's why you should all be symbols of skilled and honest Filipinos)," the Vice President told the *marinos*.

Several manning agency representatives were each given an ornament bearing their respective company logo to hang on the Christmas Tree - symbolizing the unity among the different agencies in the maritime industry.

"The SMART Link Christmas Tree is SMART Link's gift to the maritime industry, and the Tree Lighting activity symbolizes the bright future in store for the maritime community," says Tina Z. Mariano.

Vice President De Castro shares SMART Link's sentiments, *"Nawa'y maging simbolo ito ng liwanag ng darating na pasko* (May this be a symbol of the glow of this coming Christmas)," he says.

Cage heartthrob Tiu cut: 'Coach knows best'

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—THE COUNTRY'S newest basketball heartthrob will not be in the Philippine team heavily favored to win the Southeast Asian Games gold medal.

"I'm OK," Chris Tiu told the INQUIRER inside the Athletes Village on Thursday, a few hours before the opening ceremonies took the lid off of these Games here. "It's the coach's decision and he knows that it's the best for the country."

Tiu was one of the final cuts in the men's team together with Eric dela Cuesta and Patrick Cabahug. But he still joined the team's hard workout in the morning.

"I am here to continue supporting the team whichever way I can," said the 22-year-old Tiu, who earned a Management Engineering degree recently at Ateneo.

TIU: I'm OK.

Tiu still has a year left in his UAAP eligibility and he might opt to play for the Blue Eagles again next year as he tries to earn a second degree, in Math and Finance.

Arguably the most glamorous star in the last UAAP tournament, Tiu was one of the RP team's last-minute additions. But an injury that took away the best weapon of his game—the jumpshot—obviously made the decision easier for the coaching staff.

RP five battles Cambodia; Cagebelles test Singapore

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, THAILAND—THE Philippine men's basketball team still looks lean and mean despite letting go of three gunslingers.

Chris Tiu, Eric dela Cuesta and Patrick Cabahug were dropped by the squad late Wednesday night as the Filipinos start their quest for the gold that glitters the most in the 24th Southeast Asian Games which got underway here Thursday night.

Gabe Norwood, the highly touted Fil-American guard out of George Mason University, will lead the RP team which debuts opposite Cambodia at 5 p.m. (6 p.m. Manila time) on Friday at the 5,000-seat Keelapirom gym here.

Two-time PBL MVP Jason Castro and reigning UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz are also vital components of the squad that is seeking to make the Philippines SEAG's basketball king again after the event was scrapped in Manila because of the suspension imposed by the international federation, Fiba, on the country.

"We have the team that we need," said head coach Junnel Baculi. "I take my hat off to the three (Tiu, Dela Cuesta and Cabahug) who have been real troopers."

The Philippines has lost only two basketball games in its entire SEAG participation, winning all but one title—in 1989. The only other loss came at the hands of Indonesia in the eliminations in 1997.

With Norwood, Castro and Cruz in the team are Chad Alonzo, Boyet Bautista, Beau Belga, Jeff Chan, Jonathan Fernandez, Erik Rodriguez, Allan Salangsang, Al Vergara and the veteran Eugene Tan.

After Cambodia, the Nationals slug it out with Indonesia on Sunday and with Malaysia on Wednesday before closing their schedule against the Thais on Thursday.

In women's action, the revamped RP team also gets going against Singapore at 1 p.m..

The Filipinas have the Thais as foes on Sunday and Malaysia on Wednesday.

Coach Fritz Gaston noticed changes in the original schedule which he claimed was done to give the hosts some edge.

No RP women's team has ever won the gold in the Games, and Gaston believes that he has the one that could do it with the arrival of several Fil-Americans led by 6-foot-3 center Amira Issa and 5-foot-10 point guard Melissa Jacob.

A first for 13-timer Baylon

By Musong R. Castillo

BAYLON

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—FOR SOMEONE seeing action in the Southeast Asian Games for the 13th time, judoka John Baylon is still able to enjoy a first.

For the first time in his colorful career, Baylon carried the Philippine flag during the Opening Ceremonies of the 24th Games Thursday afternoon before plunging into action yet again to try and keep his remarkable undefeated slate intact.

No one has been able to lay a hand on Baylon in the SEAG, a fact that stands as one of the most astounding feats in the Games.

And he's far from being done.

Baylon, now 43 and undoubtedly the Games' Ironman, sees action in the +80-kg category and will again be the heavy favorite after winning all of his matches by ipon (the equivalent of a knockout in boxing) in Manila in 2005.

The rest of the 14-strong team is actually in great form, having spent 58 days of training in Japan to prepare for the grind here.

Baylon is still a bachelor, the price he has to pay for staying fit and sharp.

"I felt that if I started a family, I wouldn't be able to last this long in my sport," Baylon said in Filipino at the Athletes Village.

Sure silver, 2 bronzes for pugs

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—AFTER A perfect four-for-four in Bacolod two years ago, the women's boxing team assured itself of a silver medal after the draw automatically installed featherweight Ronijen Sofla as finalist in the 57-kilogram division of the 24th Southeast Asian Games here.

The five-woman field was reduced to three when one fighter did not show up and a second failed to meet the weight limit. The luck of the draw smiled on the Baguio City bet when she was assigned the first title slot.

The 26-year-old Sofla now has a chance to play as sparkplug for the RP team when she seeks the gold against the winner between Peamwilai Laopeam of Thailand and Tai Chung Ngu of Vietnam.

The lack of entries also rewarded middleweight Junie Tizon and light heavyweight Maximino Tabangcora outright bronze medals.

Junel Cantancio debuts in these Games against Than Htaik of Burma (Myanmar) in the quarterfinals of the 54-kg class today.

Also seeing action in the quarterfinals are flyweight Godfrey Castro against Xayyaphone Chanthasone of Laos, super light Larry Semillano against Dinh Quang Duk of Vietnam, Josie Gabunco against Thi Hai Yen Vu of Vietnam in the women's pinweight and Annalisa Cruz against Chaw Su Aye of Burma.

The Philippines beat Thailand in the fight for team honors by two golds after prevailing in eight divisions two years ago, but the hosts are expected to dominate the sport this time with the aid of what RP officials said will be biased judging.

Light flyweight Harry Tanamor and the three other male winners are not around for different reasons but the female champions of 2005 are all here—flyweight Annie Albania, pinweight Alice Kate Aparri, bantamweight Jouvilet Chilem and lightweight Mitchelle Martinez.

Molina plunges into action today

RP tankers out to surpass 2005 haul

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—MIGUEL MOLINA, the golden boy of Philippine swimming in the last two Southeast Asian Games, opens defense of one of his three titles at the Aquatic Center of the Main Stadium here when the 24th edition of the biennial sportsfest goes full blast Friday.

Now 23, Molina competes in the 400-meter individual medley as spearhead of a team determined to surpass its 4-5-6 gold-silver-bronze performance two years ago at the Trace Aquatics Center in Los Baños, Laguna.

Molina, who also prevailed in the 200 IM and the 200 breaststroke in 2005, when the country finally joined the roster of SEAG overall champions, will also see action in the 4x200 freestyle relay with Ryan Arabejo, James Walsh and either Nikita Dacera or Ernest Dee.

Arabejo, already an Olympic qualifier in the 1,500 freestyle like Molina, is also scheduled to take part earlier in the men's 200 backstroke.

All six female tankers likewise will get going in the morning heats with Celina Gonzalez seeing action in the 100 freestyle, Nicole Santiago in the 200 backstroke and Maria Georgina Gandionco in the 200 IM.

All three are also listed in the RP women's team in the 4x200 freestyle relay along with Erica Totten, and Jaclyn Pangilinan.

The top eight from the heats will return to the pool starting at 6 p.m. (7 p.m. in Manila) to dispute the gold in their respective events.

Coach Carlos (Pinky) Brosas said the United States-based Molina is still very competitive even as he backed the prediction of swim president Mark Joseph that the Filipinos have a good chance of surpassing their 2005 medal harvest.

He said the youngsters two years ago have improved a lot now, and cited Arabejo, Totten and Uy as potential gold prospects along with Pangilinan and Daniel Coakley.

RP Schedule, Friday (Dec. 7)

ATHLETICS

Decathlon (100m, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400m)—Arnold Villarube; 800m heats (men)—Midel Dique, Edison Manansala; shot put, final (men)— Elizer Sonang; triple jump, final (men)—Jobert Delicano, Benigno Marayag; 100m heats (men)—Albert Salcedo; 400m hurdles, final (women)—Mary Grace Milgar; javelin throw, final (women)—Rosie Villanto; 5,000m, final (men)—Julius Sermona, Allan Ballester; 100m, final (women)—Sheena Atilano, Sharon Jizmundo

SWIMMING

100m freestyle, heats, (women)—Celina Gonzalez; 200m backstroke, heats (men)— Ryan Arabejo; 200m backstroke, heats (women)—Nicole Santiago; 400m IM, heats (men)—Miguel Molina; 200m IM, heats (women)—Maria Georgina Gandionco; 4 x 200m freestyle relay, heats (men)—Miguel Molina, Ryan Arabejo, James Walsh, Nikita Dacera, Ernest Dee; 4 x 200m freestyle relay, heats (women)—Erica Totten, Maria Georgina Gandionco, Nicole Santiago, Celina Gonzalez, Jaclyn Pangilinan (Finals set in the afternoon)

WATER POLO

Start of round robin play

ARCHERY

Men Recurve, qualification— Mark Javier, Ian Wayne Larsen, Christian Cubilla, Marvin Cordero; Women Compound, qualification—Jennifer Paz, Abbigail Tindugan, Amaya Pay, Joann Tabanag; Men Compound, qualification—Earl Benjamin Yap, Rosendo Sombrio, Enrique Cojuangco Jr., Jorge Vargas; Women Recurve, qualification—Rachelle Anne Cabral

BASEBALL

RP vs Malaysia

BASKETBALL (MEN)

RP vs Cambodia

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

Snooker team, quarterfinals, semifinals, finals (men)—James Al Ortega, Benjamin Guevarra Jr. Marlon Manalo; 9-ball pool singles, prequarter (women)—Rubilen Amit, Iris Ranola; 1 cushion carom, prequarter (men)—Reynaldo Grandea, Emilio Villariza; 9-ball pool doubles, quarterfinals (men)—Marlon Manalo, Antonio Gabica

BOXING

All weights, preliminary/quarterfinals

Feather (57kg)—Orlando Tacuyan Jr; fly (51kg)—Godfrey Castro; light (60kg)—Joegen Ladon; light fly (48)—Albert Pabila;

light heavy (81)—Maraon Goles; middle (75kg)—Junie Tizon; pin (45kg)—Bill Vicera; super light (64kg)—Wilfredo Lopez; welter (69kg)—Delfin Boholst

CYCLING

Cross country, finals (men)—Frederick Feliciano, Eusebio Quinones, Nino Surban;

(women)—Baby Marites Bitbit

FUTSAL

Team preliminary (women)—RP vs Malaysia; (men)—RP vs Malaysia

ROWING

Group B heats, (men-women); repechages

SEPAK TAKRAW

Team event B (men)—RP vs Laos

SQUASH

Singles, preliminary (men)—Robert Andrew Garcia, Ricky Espinola

TABLE TENNIS

Mixed doubles, first round/semis—Richard Gonzales-Crisanta Abas; Rodel Irineo Valle-Sendrina Andrea Balatbat

TENNIS

Team, first round (men)—Cecil, Mamit, Eric Taino, PJ Tierro, Johnny Arcilla;

(women)—Czarina Mae Arevalo, Denise Dy, Dianne Matias, Michelle Pang

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Preliminary (women)—RP 2 (Michelle Carolino-Michelle Laborte) vs Laos 2, RP 1(Heidi Ilustre-Diane Pascua) vs Malaysia 2

WRESTLING

Freestyle up to 48kg, preliminary, repechage (women)—Maribel Jambora, freestyle over 48 up to 51, preliminary, repechage (women)—Ma. Cristina Vergara; freestyle over 74 up to 84 (men)—Marcus Valda; Finals in all 3 events set later in the day.

WUSHU

Duilian, final (men)—Pedro Quina, Daniel Parantac; taijiquan-2 events combined (women)—Janice Hung, Mary Stephanie Agbay; sanshou, 52kg, preliminary (men)—Rene Catalan; sanshou, 56kg, preliminary (men)—Benjie Rivera; sanshou, 65kg, preliminary (men)—Mark Eddiva

PENCAK SILAT

Eliminations (men) Under 50kg-Jul Omar Abdulhakim; Under 55kg—Christopher Yabut; Under 60kg—Adzhar Abdurasad; Under 65kg—Emmanuel Andres Basa; Under 70kg— Joamil Solomon; Under 75kg—Marniel Dimla; Under 80kg—Edwin Simacon; (women) Over 65kg—Juvy Jumuad; tunggal—Carla Arang; Under 50kg—Annaliza Bea; Under 55kg—Marie Charllou Rabino; Under 60—Emraida Asmad; Under 65kg—Nerlyn Huinda

PETANQUE

Shooting, preliminary/finals (men)—Marcelito Pancho; (women)—Mildred Vicente

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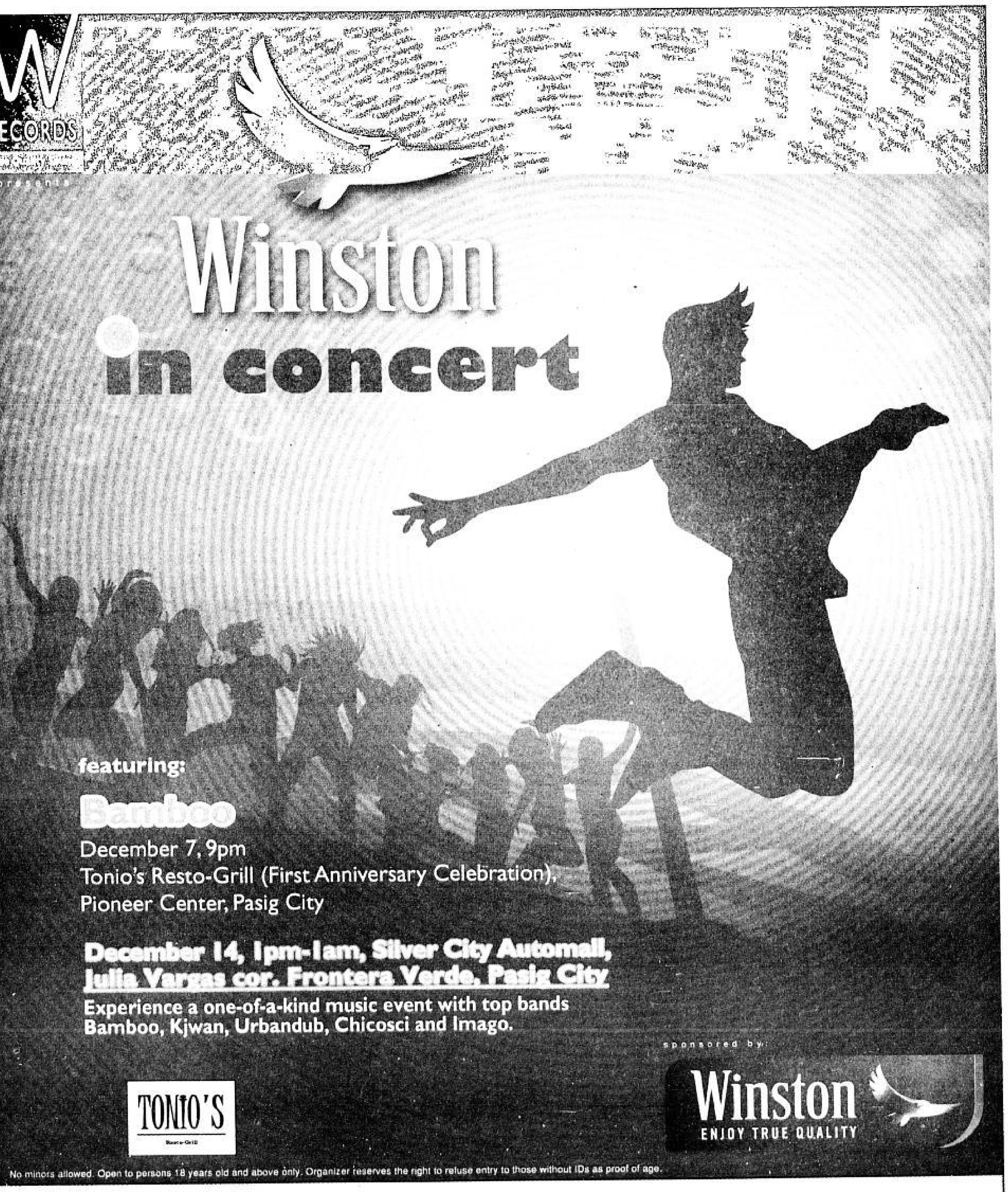


December 7, 9pm
Tonio's Resto-Grill (First Anniversary Celebration),
Pioneer Center, Pasig City

December 14, 1pm-1am, Silver City Automall,
Julia Vargas cor. Frontera Verde, Pasig City

Experience a one-of-a-kind music event with top bands Bamboo, Kjwan, Urbandub, Chicosci and Imago.

No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Celts wear down Sixers; Lakers up

NEW YORK—THE BOSTON Celtics improved to an NBA-best 15-2 with a 113-103 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday.

Kevin Garnett scored 22 points and Paul Pierce contributed 19 points and 12 assists for the Celtics, who pulled away in the fourth quarter against a Philadelphia team playing for the first time under new president and general manager Ed Stefanski.

The Sixers (5-13) responded with an impressive effort against the NBA leaders, surging 57-52 ahead at the half and regaining the lead in the fourth quarter while shooting an impressive 56 percent.

"Teams are up to play us," Boston coach Doc Rivers told reporters. "We've never gone through this."

The Celtics wore down Philadelphia in the dying minutes, however, Eddie House and James Posey hitting key three-pointers to seal the win.

Posey had 17 points, House added 15 and Ray Allen chipped in with 12 for the Celtics.

Andre Miller had 26 points and 12 assists to lead the Sixers, with Andre Iguodala adding 24 for the losers.

"For 40 minutes we were there, but you've got to be able to sustain it against a team like that," coach Maurice Cheeks said.

The Los Angeles Lakers overcame 51 points from Allen Iverson by beating the Denver Nuggets, 111-107.

The San Antonio Spurs beat the Dallas Mavericks, 97-95, with Tony Parker scoring 23 points.

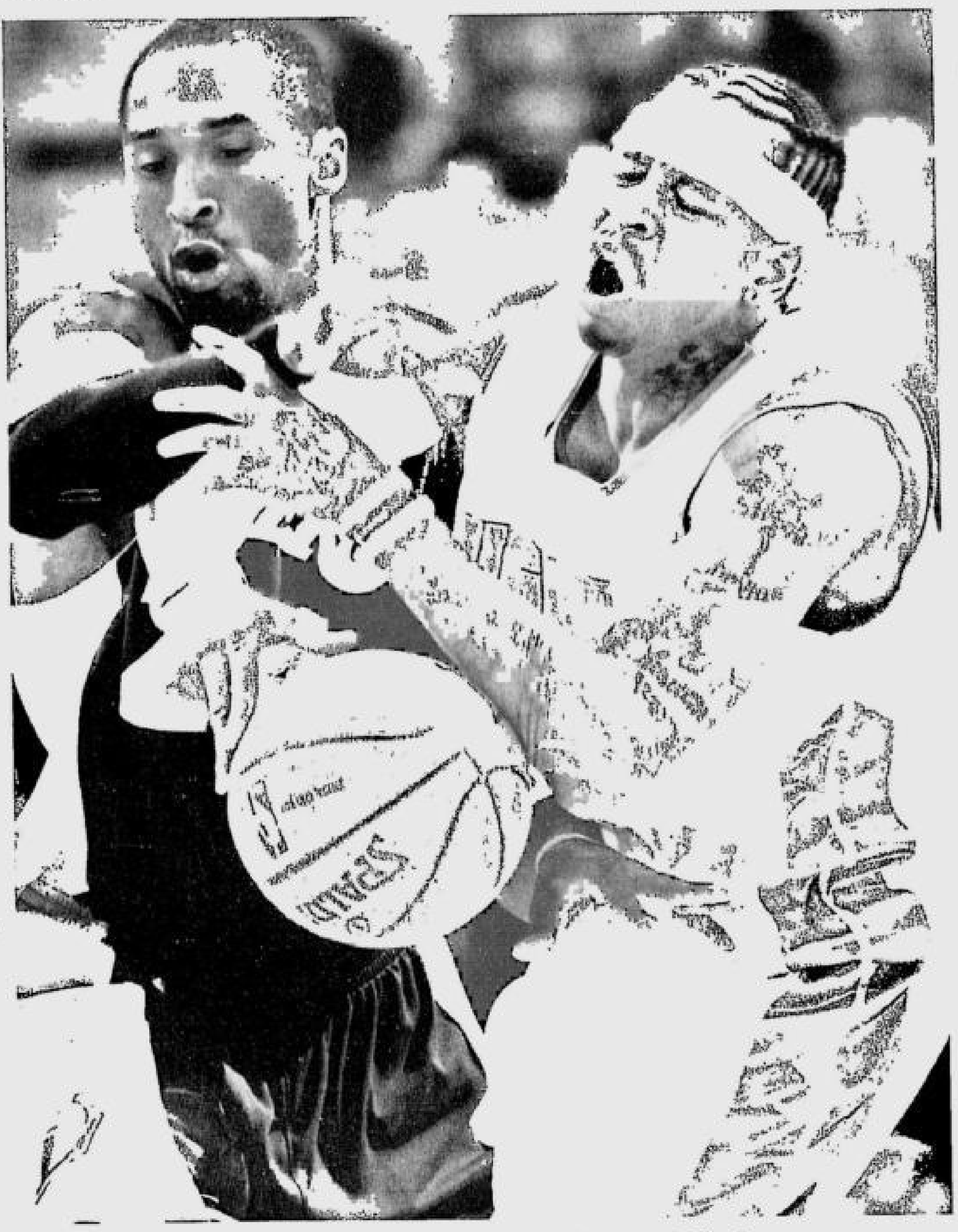
The Phoenix Suns set a season-high points total as Leandro Barbosa scored 35 in a 136-123 win over the Toronto Raptors.

The Charlotte Bobcats lost their seventh game in a row, going down 91-82 to the Chicago Bulls.

The New York Knicks beat the New Jersey Nets for just the second time in 12 meetings, downing them, 100-93.

Richard Hamilton scored 21 points as the Detroit Pistons beat the New Orleans Hornets, 91-76.

Reuters



THE LAKERS' Kobe Bryant (left) breaks up a pass to the Nuggets' Allen Iverson. AP

This is Manila when we still used the garbage can

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NAKHON RATCHASIMA—"STAND, stand? You rike stand?" pleaded Suephot, our designated team driver, while pounding hard on the front-seat cushion of the van outside the main stadium hours before the opening ceremonies for the 24th Southeast Asian Games yesterday.

Poor fellow. All he was telling us, with unusual patriotic fervor, was to please take a seat in the comfort of the vehicle, while waiting for the other members of the NBN-4 coverage crew out in the field.

Sit? You wanna sit down?

* * *

The Fah Thai Hotel down here, much unlike the Novotel in downtown Bangkok, is nowhere near a funeral parlor.

But name a brilliant merchant out there in Manila who would dare invest one blind peso in a venture with the same distinct deathly ring.

Fah Thai is kayoed cold—*tepok*, dead—before the opening bell for the first round.

So what's in a name?

Nothing and everything.

This, dear friends, should again confirm that a name and its sound, depending on where you sit or stand now, cannot always be trusted to convey a word's true meaning.

* * *

It also pays to determine whether it's a Malay, Indon, Viet or drunken, diehard Siamese who spells or speaks the magic word out there.

He's Buddhist but Suephot, you can bet your last baht, is not unchristian between the thighs.

Of course, there was unconcealed laughter when our lean, dusky driver, he with the elusive eyes of a jungle cat, first introduced himself.

Nobody in the NBN-4 crew had the gall to tell, much less explain, to dear Suephot that his name, in the Tagalog tongue, was only half an innocent vowel short of dripping into a dirty phallic slur.

Potsuuu!

* * *

Hello my dear host, how wonderful of you to take us into your arms.

Pardon me, but this is the first time I've dared write down and spell out your name.

Did I spell it right?

You see, the first time I heard it, I tarried, was taken aback.

It was both a tongue twister and an incantation.

* * *

Yes, it's easier to pronounce your old name, Khorat, listed as a large province on the northeastern plateau of this country, a gateway to other provinces in the northeast.

I was afraid to write your name down, lest I wrecked the magic.

Nakhon Ratchasima, 259 kilometers from Bangkok, said to be only four hours by car to Cambodia, the reason why this province is rich in ancient Cambodian culture.

Endowed with beautiful nature—forests, mountains, reservoirs and waterfalls—it has been a "key city since ancient times as an administration center."

* * *

My first memory of you, long after we've left for home, will be the well-swept morning streets that shone as though they had been waxed and scrubbed.

There's the unusual chill, flowers and trimmed greeneries, endless lines of undisturbed trees in the middle of quiet streets.

You've taken in progress with graceful dignity, never drowning in the glut of cement, refusing to over-indulge in metal and concrete.

High-quality silk, heavenly noodles, Khmer stone sanctuaries, Dan Kwian pottery.

You must, in a way, be the Manila of old, when the Noble and Ever Loyal was younger, cool, clean, unrushed, unruffled and verdant.

This must be the Manila when our people still knew how to use the garbage can.

Nakhon Ratchasima, you will always be remembered like Lumpini Park—with fondness, like a first love.

Even it's here where the Philippines will surely lose the overall championship of this biennial tournament.

Zoleta advances as foe limps out

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NIKKI CAMILLE ZOLETA reached the girls' singles quarterfinals of the rain-delayed Phinma International Junior tennis tournament yesterday after her limping Japanese foe abandoned their match at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Zoleta stepped closer to duplicating her semifinal stint in last year's tournament after fifth seed Mika Morimoto retired due to back pain with the score tied at 5-5 in the first set.

"I noticed that she's just hitting the ball high," said the pretty 15-year-old Filipino, who ironically failed to hold serve despite leading 40-30 in the 10th game. "And then she gave up."

The high school senior from Maryhill College in Lucena City forged a match with Australian Ashling Sumner, who dispatched Chinese Taipei's Lee Hua-chen, 6-3, 6-3.

"I still haven't played against her (Lee) but I will try my best to play harder," said Zoleta, whose 18-year-old sister Bien is also a regular junior campaigner.

Top seed Thai Satjaporn Mahajaroenkl defeated Filipina wild card Maria Regina Santiago, 6-3, 6-3, before rains again washed out the matches.

Matches were reset late in the afternoon after morning rains wreaked havoc on the schedule, delaying the boys' singles matches.

Also advancing in the girls' singles were Riko Fujioka, who won via walkover against fourth seed Laili Rahmawati Ulf of Indonesia and Australian Cody Morris who routed Thailand's Banyapa Phumtip, 6-3, 6-0.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Mulligan (6), Wynn's Connection (7), Take Ten (3), High Pocket (2)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Kayang Kaya (3), Mighty Mare (4), Rapid Fire (1), Bull Rider (2)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Fair Urduja (5), Mika's Pride (6), China Woman (9), Detective Daryll (7), Heart Of The Wind (8)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—When We're Flying (5), El Cubano Coskee (4), Splendor/Jazzineth's (1), Sail & Sign/Flame Of The Wild (3)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Red Storm (5), Terry Toon (4), Princess Leighla (3), Pabilic Express (6), Imperator (2)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Regal Boom/Ziraz (2), Traditional (6), Fairy Queen (4), Chariot Of Fire (1)

Race 7—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Vojamac (3), Bom's Bom's (7), Queen Of Gala (2), Sovereign Dancer (6), Queen Josephine (11), Music Quest (8)

Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Kai Jason (1), Defiant (3), Cool Town (7), Hok Kee Hok (6), Storm Hall (2)

Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—On The Fairway (12), Nice Legs (6), Body Shot (1), Style Icon/Conjugal Bullet (11), Princess Of Aachen (2), Gainable (9)

UST spikers remain unscathed in UAAP

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS claimed the solo lead in the UAAP men's volleyball competition after netting three straight victories, including an upset over three-time champion Far Eastern University, at the start of second-semester action this week.

The Tigers, who finished third last season, outlasted the University of the Philippines Maroons, 24-26, 33-31, 25-19, 25-14, to remain the only undefeated squad yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym.

A Rene Roque spike nailed the set point in the grueling second frame that lasted for 32 minutes.

The Tigers opened their campaign by stunning the Tamaraws, 25-23, 25-20, 23-25, 25-19, over the weekend, followed by a straight-set win against the Ateneo Blue Eagles, 25-10, 25-22, 25-16, last Tuesday.

The Maroons, last season's runner-up, fell to a share of second place with the Tamaraws and the University of the East Warriors at 2-1.

Aside from Roque, the Tigers have been leaning on Robertly Boto, Rey Karl Dimaculangan and John Balse, brother of UST volleyball star Mary Jean Balse.

The Tamaraws, though, recovered from their first-day setback with triumphs over the Warriors, 25-16, 25-12, 25-18, and the Bulldogs, 25-13, 25-13, 25-23.

SPORTSWATCH

Los Bulleros Darts Club holds 2 big tournaments

LOS BULLEROS DARTS CLUB WILL hold two big events this month, starting with a P10,000 tournament this Saturday at the Harbour Restaurant on Mother Ignacia Street in Quezon City.

Another P10,000 tournament will be held on Dec. 15. Registration fee is P150 inclusive of one free drink. Mode of play is 501, best-of-three, in the winners' bracket, and 701 in the losers' bracket. Registration starts at 7 p.m.

NCFP Executives chess

THE 9TH LEG OF THE NATIONAL CHESS Federation of the Philippines Executives and Professionals Chess Challenge will be held on Dec. 8 at the Greenhouse Grill, Diliman, Quezon City.

This was announced by NCFP executive director lawyer Sammy Estimo, who said the event is supported by Benguet Governor Raul Molintas and supported by NCFP chair Rep. Matias Defensor, GM Eugene Torre, IM Rudy Tan Cardoso and Cebu sportsman Matias Aznar.

Regatta sails at Taal Lake

THE PLACID TAAL LAKE ONCE AGAIN bursts into action and color as the first-ever Club Balai Isabel Regatta unfolds on Dec. 9 at the Taal Lake Yacht Club (TLYC) in Talisay, Batangas.

Taal Lake is home of the Philippine Hobie Fleet and is host to monthly regattas of the TLYC to popularize the sport of sailing among Filipinos.

Club Balai Isabel is an affiliate of Resort Condominiums International (RCI), the world's largest vacation club. Call 776-1521 for details.

Cavite derby finals

ALL ROADS LEAD TO CAVITE COLISEum Derby Center and Casino in Bacoor today as the final round of Cavite International 7-cock derby starts at 4 p.m. with 70 matches on tap.

Aside from the P2 million guaranteed prize, the champion/s will also receive a huge trophy from derby host former Sen. Ramon Revilla.

Among those gunning for the championship are Chavit Singson, Richard Bates, Gov. Ito Ynares, Lito Orillaza, Jun Pascual, Gerry Ramos, Mayor Nene Aguilar and lawyer Rudy Salud.

SJC Rambulan stakes P3M

SAN JUAN COLISEUM WELCOMES THE 2007-2008 cock season with the Pamaskong Rambulan 6-cock derby, offering a guaranteed prize of P3 million, on Dec. 10, 12, 15, 17 and 19.

Around 300 entries are expected in this grand showdown of leading cockers and derbyists to be hosted by SJC owner Rodolfo Pineda who pegged the entry fee at P11,000.

Pit manager Renato Shio advised the handlers of each entry to get their Christmas gifts at the SJC office before the start of the event on Monday.

Makati Salpukan slated

THE ANNUAL PAMASKONG SALPUKAN 6-cock derby of Makati Coliseum, now on its third year, starts on Monday with over P4 million in guaranteed prize up for grabs.

Participants who will score two points in the elimination rounds (Dec. 10, 12, 17, 19 and 22) will share in the P100,000 day prize.

The fastest win champion on Dec. 26 gets a passenger jeep while the fastest win champ on Dec. 29 will drive home a brand-new Toyota Innova.

Derby hosts are Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co.

Paragua stuns Li, climbs to second behind Ni

By Roy Luarca

WHEN IN-FORM, GRANDMASTER Mark Paragua's brilliance shows.

As other pacesetters opted for draws, Paragua trounced Chinese GM Li Chao in the seventh round Wednesday night to jump into solo second place behind GM Ni Hua in the third Prospero Pichay Jr. Cup international chess championship at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Parañaque City.

The former whiz kid from Meycauyan, Bulacan, handled black superbly to force Li, winner of the second PGMA Cup last month, to surrender after only 24 moves of the Sicilian defense and gain on Ni, the top-seeded Chinese who settled for a draw with Singaporean GM Zhang Zhong.

Paragua, the only Filipino to break the Elo 2600-barrier but is now down to 2514, climbed to 5.5 points, only half a point behind 6.0-pointer Ni and right on target of the $5,000 (about P210,000) champion's purse.

Asia's first GM Eugene Torre notched his second straight triumph at the expense of David Elorta and improved to 5.0 points, good for a share of third to ninth places. Torre landed in the company of fellow Filipinos GM Rogelio Antonio Jr., IMs Wesley So and Julio Catalino Sadorra and NM John Paul Gomez; Zhang and Vietnamese GM Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam.

Pivotal eighth-round matches pit Ni against Paragua, Zhang against Dao, Antonio against So, Torre against Gomez and Ghaem against Sadorra.

Antonio and Sadorra drew after nine moves of the Bogo Indian.

PARAGUA

FIL-AM GOLF

Nat'l golfers fan Marinduque bid

By Jong Arcano

BAGUIO—JOHNNEL ABABA and Mark Fernando left their Club Marinduque teammates a little message after a limited appearance in the 58th Fil-Am wars yesterday: Please finish the job.

The reed-thin Ababa tamed the Baguio Country Club with a two-under-par medal round worth 38 points to power Club Marinduque to an eight-point lead over Manila Southwoods in the Fil division going into the last two days here.

Ababa knocked in five straight birdies for the best round so far at the BCC course, sparking a turnaround aided by Jay Bayron's 35 and brother Rufino's 32.

Fernando and Paul Echavez submitted 31s, one of which counted as Club Marinduque's fourth score for its 136 total that allowed it to break out of a first-round tie with Southwoods.

Marinduque's 266 aggregate was eight up on Southwoods, which tripped on a day where even Tonton Asistio's 29 counted.

Tonyt Fernando, the reigning Philippine amateur champ, scored 35 in his last game for Southwoods before joining Ababa and Fernando in the trip back to Manila to catch the plane that will bring them to Bangkok, Thailand today for the SEA Games.

While Bondoc chipped in a 33, Southwoods' could only get 31 from Korean recruit Il Jin Chun. Former national player Mike Bibat bombed out with a 27.

The other half of Marinduque's sweep bid appeared to be all secure until the technical committee disqualified Jessie Balasabas, who had scored a 36 for Marinduque, for a scorecard that was unsigned by his marker.

Marinduque thus ended up with 125 through Ryan Lam (35), Dave Hernandez (34), Joseph Labajo (29) and Zanie Boy Guialon (27). Marinduque's 260 still leads Manila Southwoods by 12.

Updated and complete results are available at pilipinasgolf.com, the joint website of INQUIRER GOLF and Golf Digest Philippines.

STOCKINGER negotiates a turn during the race.

Stockinger finishes eighth in world tilt

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD KART ace Marlon Stockinger made history in Philippine motorsports last weekend by finishing eighth in the senior category of the 2007 World Rotax Max Karting Championship in Al Ain, Dubai.

Stockinger is the first Filipino karter to achieve a top ten ranking at the world level and was the best Asian driver in this year's championship, where 216 of the best drivers from 55 countries and all five continents competed.

Conditions during the whole weekend were made tricky by strong winds from the desert that carried sand into the track, making it quite slippery.

"Unfortunately we had some problems with our engine during qualifying," said Stockinger. "I was as fast as the frontrunners in the final and if I had started from a better position on the grid I could have battled for a podium finish. Nevertheless, I am very happy with the result and I am looking forward to some challenging competition next year in karting and maybe formula cars."

Giants test Phone Pals; Kings take on Express

LEAGUE-LEADING PUREFOODS KNOWS there is one way to redeem the respect it reluctantly lost after a heart-rending defeat at the hands of Magnolia.

The Giants take the floor against a Talk 'N Text team that also got stung by their tormentors as they try to reclaim their self-esteem and at the same time fortify their lofty stature today in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"Our last game was really disappointing," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, referring to the 108-86 debacle they absorbed from the Beverage Masters.

"Our mission is to get back on the right track," he added.

It was the worst Purefoods debacle under Gregorio since a 34-point whipping Barangay Ginebra inflicted during an elimination-round game in 2003 and the Giants will try to erase the memory of that humbling defeat.

They go up against the Phone Pals, who are also coming off a loss to the Beverage Masters, albeit in a freakier fashion.

Lordy Tugade capped Magnolia's ascent from 24 points down, nailing a three-pointer at the buzzer that gave Magnolia an almost improbable 96-93 comeback victory.

"We expect a tough resistance from TNT," said Gregorio, whose Giants hold a two-game advantage over Red Bull and Magnolia (7-4) with a conference-best 9-2 record. "We want to solidify our hold on the top spot."

The Giants, though, will be out to bounce back from that sorry loss, which looked like a win until the final period.

In control for three quarters, the Phone Pals lost their footing after coach Derrick Pumaren pulled out scorers Jay Washington, Jimmy Alapag and bigman Yancy De Ocampo in one crucial stretch—one where Magnolia began its comeback blitz.

Before that, the Phone Pals were well on their way to justifying the trade that shipped the 6-foot-9 2003 MVP Asi Taulava to Coca-Cola in exchange for Ali Peek.

Peek was one of the reasons why the Phone Pals managed to erect a 24-point cushion against the talent-rich Beverage Masters, but in the end, Talk 'N Text fell to 5-6 just the same.

Barangay Ginebra also seeks redemption— and a more solid ground to hoist its title defense campaign on— when the Kings take on the Air21 Express in the curtain-raiser.

The Kings let victory slip out of their grasp and absorbed their seventh defeat in 11 games after the Alaska Aces escaped with an 87-82 win last Saturday in Lucena City.

At 4-7, the Kings are hardly mentioned nowadays among the list of serious title threats despite the fact that they won this title last year.

"We've got to really work double time," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico. "We have to work on a lot of things to be a contender again."

The Express (5-5) are coming off a victory at the expense of the Welcoat Dragons and coach Bo Perasol is hoping they could duplicate the win over the Kings.

"They lost to us in the first round," said Perasol. "I'm sure they'll do every thing humanely possible to get back at us." *June Navarro*

STA. LUCIA do-it-all forward Kelly Williams attacks the defense of Alaska's JR Quiñahan in their game late Wednesday night. The Realtors defeated the Aces, 94-88. PBA IMAGES

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	9	2
Red Bull	7	4
Magnolia	7	4
Alaska	7	4
Air21	5	5
Talk 'N Text	5	6
Sta. Lucia	4	6
Ginebra	4	7
Welcoat	3	8
Coca-Cola	3	8

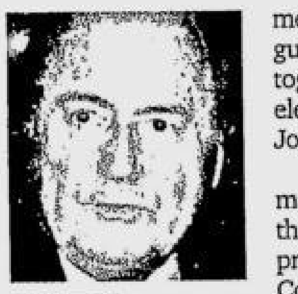
GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:50 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Air21
7:20 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Purefoods

Football chief Blatter hits town today

JOSEPH "SEPP" BLATTER, president of the International Football Federation (Fifa), arrives today from Zurich to attend the Centennial celebrations of the Philippine Football Federation.

It will be his second such visit in his capacity as Fifa official.

It has been over 30 years since a Fifa president visited the country. At that time, Blatter came as Fifa general secretary, together with then president Jao Javelange of Brazil.


BLATTER

Blatter is scheduled to arrive via Singapore Airline with Asian Football Confederation president Mohamed Bin Hamman. Both Blatter and Hamman were invited by former PFF president and now chair emeritus Juan Miguel Romualdez, who will meet the special guests at the airport together with newly-elected PFF president Jose Mari Martinez.

Blatter and Hammam will proceed to the Sofitel Hotel for a press conference. Cocktails will follow, preceding the 7 p.m. festivities for Philippine Football's 100 years.

Over 500 guests are expected to attend the celebrations organized by the Centennial Celebration Organizing Committee headed by Catherine Rivilla.

During the program, outstanding achievers of the past century will be awarded by Blatter and Hammam. The special guests leave at noon Saturday after watching young football players scrimmage at Tuloy sa Don Bosco in Alabang. *Romina S. Austria*

De Jesus 'nets' Mabuhay triumph

GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE—AUGUSTO DE JESUS knew what he had to do to win.

Armed with a more favorable handicap, de Jesus reined in his closes rival, Tom Culligan, and matched him stroke-for-stroke to bag overall honors in the 2007 Mabuhay Miles Elite Invitational golf tournament at the Eagle Ridge Country Club here recently.

De Jesus, a Mabuhay Miles member since 1997, used a hot putter at the Dye course to come within a stroke of Culligan on gross. De Jesus finished with a 75, a shot off Culligan's birdie-spiked 74.

But De Jesus' handicap of eight gave him the title on net, his 67 good for the trophy against the 68 of the six-handicapper Culligan. Californian Culligan, champion of this event in 1999 and a perennial contender, settled for low gross honors this time.

Manila Open bowling rolls off today

THE 2007 MANILA OPEN BOWLING Classic rolls off today at the SM Bowling Center at the Mall of Asia with some of the country's top bowlers competing.

Proceeds of the ten-day competition offering over P1 million in gift certificates and special prizes will go to the Philippine Cancer Society, Inc. (PCSI).

The champion of the event will get P200,000.

The event organized by the 33rd Street Productions is supported by the INQUIRER, Centrum, Cube TV and Neocolors Printing and backed by Michelin Asia, Citibank, Bayer Healthcare, Lynn Roth Designs, John Robert Powers, United Laboratories, Rudy Project, SM Bowling Center, Mister Donut Countrystyle, Itallani's, Cheesecake, Maxwell Coffee, Epinoy Mall and The Travel Club. For details, call 4941939, 8059715, 0918-3207771, 0919-2224136.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

LOOK WHO'S READY TO RUMBLE: (From left) Kimo, Hel Herring, Royce Gracie, Josh Barnett, Benny Tuazon, Ken Shamrock, Ron Dela Torre and Gokor Chivichyan are all pumped up for fight night during yesterday's press conference at the Crown Plaza in Ortigas. RODEL ROTONI

Mixed martial arts masters mix it up Sunday

THE MIXED MARTIAL ARTS LEGENDS are here and don't blame the ordinary fight fan if he cranks up the volume while playing that iconic U2 hit Sunday Bloody Sunday.

World-renowned fighters Ken. Shamrock, Royce Gracie, Josh Barnett and Gokor Chivichyan yesterday vowed to put up a good show during the "Ring of Fire World Team Challenge" on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Shamrock, Gracie, Barnett and Gokor, who appeared before the media during a formal launch at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas, are fielding teams of five fighters each for no-holds-barred encounters on a circular cage.

Team Shamrock will pit their wares against Team Gracie while Team Barnett will test the mettle of Team Gokor in the one-day extravaganza.

"Everything is set. We're ready for the big event this weekend," said Benny Tuason Jr. of Fearless Fighting Productions, which is co-producing the event along with the Las Vegas-based Platinum Fighting Productions.

Tuason graced the formal launching, along with Platinum chief executive officer Ron de la Torre and members of the participating teams.

De la Torre said team members will visit select schools such as Ateneo, La Salle and Benedictine International School and shopping centers such as SM Megamall and Robinson's Galeria to promote the sport.

The Team Shamrock vs Team Gracie faceoff will feature Evan Dunham (Team Shamrock) vs Cleber Luciano (Team Gracie), Kyacey Uscola (Team Shamrock) vs Jorge Patino (Team Gracie), Mike Whitehead (Team Shamrock) vs Daniel Serafian (Team Gracie), Ricco Rodriguez (Team Shamrock) vs John Marsch (Team Gracie) and Tonya Evinger (Team Shamrock) vs Kathrine Andal (Team Gracie).

The Team Gracie vs Team Gokor showdown will have Koji Oishi (Team Barnett) vs Karen Darabdeyan (Team Gokor), Yuki Kondo (Team Barnett) vs August Wallen (Team Gokor), Renato Sobral (Team Barnett) vs Rodney Faverus (Team Gokor), Jeff Monson (Team Barnett) vs Hakim Gouram (Team Gokor) and Ginele Marquez (Team Barnett) vs Amanda Buckner (Team Gokor)

Serving as alternates are fighters of Team Kimo: David Gardner, Steve Hèaddon, Fernando Gonzales, Hector Ramirez and Sherri Thompson.

Judges for the event will come from the California State Athletic Commission.

The "Ring of Fire: World Team Challenge" is expected • to draw a huge chunk of Filipino fans who have been hooked on the no-holds-barred battles that made household names out of the likes of Ken Shamrock.

Tickets are available at all SM Department Stores and at the Araneta Coliseum ticket booths. For inquiries, call 9115555 or log on at www.mmafighting.com.

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VOLVO MASTERS

Miñoza 2 shots off lead

BANGKOK—AUSTRALIAN SCOTT STRANGE took the early lead at the Volvo Masters of Asia with an opening round of seven-under-par 65 at the Thai Country Club on Thursday.

Playing in the Asian Tour's season finale, the 30-year-old surged ahead on the front nine with five birdies and a lone bogey before coming back with three birdies to take a two-stroke lead.

"It's a good start, I birdied the first couple of holes, I slipped up a bit, but this course is playing nice," Strange told reporters.

Korean Lee Sung, Thai Prayad Marksaeng and Frankie Miñoza of the Philippines were tied for second on five under, a stroke ahead of England's Simon Griffiths, who had a 68.

Miñoza, 48, gave himself a shot at improving on last year's runner-up finish to Thongchai with a card that included six birdies, including a chip-in on the 18th hole.

"I am happy but tired—it is a good start—because this is my eighth tournament in a row, which is a lot for a 48-year-old," smiled Miñoza. "I like this course but I am tired. I was struggling on the back nine but my chipping and putting helped me through. I only had 23 putts—I am really happy with that."

He endured quite a dramatic finish, dropping a bogey on the 17th after an errant drive went so far right that it nearly reached the group on the 15th green but he recovered in style with a magnificent chip-in for birdie.

"It was so far right I think I startled Prayad (Marksaeng) on the 15th green," smiled Miñoza. *Reuters, Asian Tour News*

MIÑOZA: Tired but happy with 5-under-67. AFP

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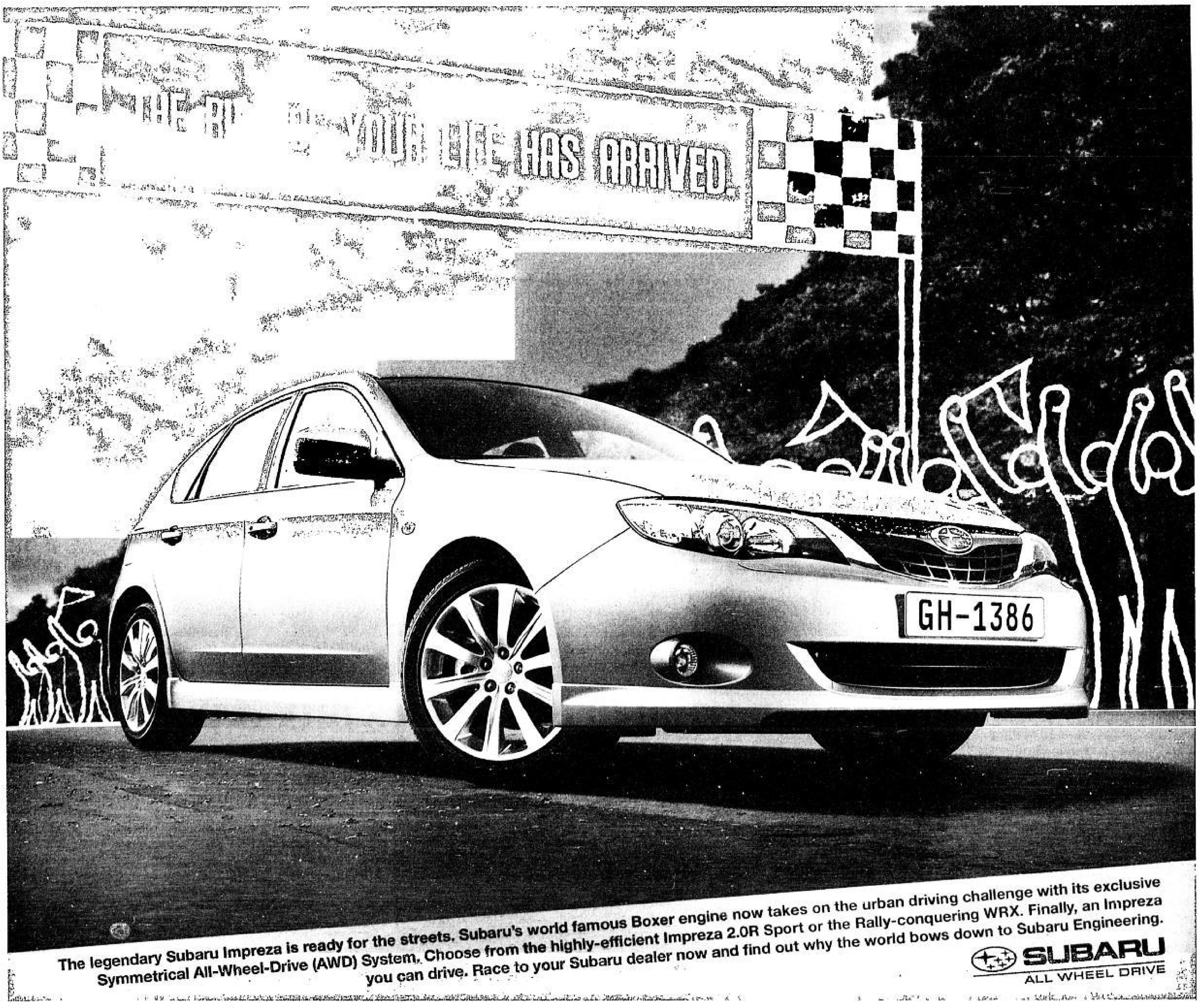
NCRAA: Doves, Jaguars trip opponents

THE ST. FRANCIS OF Assisi College Doves continued to dominate the 15th SMART-National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) basketball tournament after a 72-66 decision over Arellano University Chiefs at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym yesterday. In the other game, Philippine School of Business Administration pulled off a 75-73 upset win over Asian College of Science and Technology.



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$3-B China shipping project in RP delayed

Official says Cosco remains interested

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CHINA SHIPPING GIANT COSCO GROUP REMAINS KEEN ON putting up a $3-billion regional cargo hub in the Philippines, but the project's implementation may be delayed, according to Francis Chua, presidential adviser on China trade and investments.

Chua, who is working directly with Cosco regarding the project, said in an interview that the company's top brass had decided to let a Singapore-based subsidiary undertake the venture.

"This would mean the project would be delayed, but we are trying to get Beijing (the main company) to take a direct hand in the venture," Chua said.

In previous interviews, the official had said he was working to have this project—a crucial investment for both Cosco and the Philippines—started promptly.

"We don't know why Cosco decided to assign the project to the Singapore unit," Chua said. "Things would certainly be carried out much faster if Beijing was directly involved."

Cosco had sent a team of experts to take a look at prospective sites for the shipping hub, including Sangley Point off Cavite and Subic Freeport, both former naval facilities.

Cosco was originally considering to build a base at Sangley Point, through which it could collect shipments from various points within the region for more efficient onward hauling to the United States and other destinations across the Pacific.

While this was developing, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued an executive order mandating the development of Sangley Point into an international logistics hub.

However, Chua said the Cosco team had seen the advantages of locating in Subic as well and that it did not want to pass up on either site.

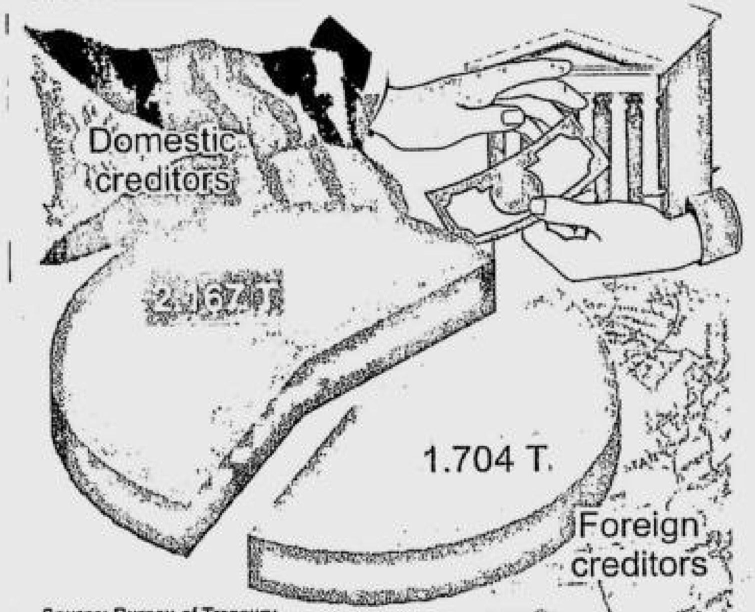
$3-B CHINA/ B5

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

National government debt hits P3.871T (August 2007)

Over half (56 percent) of the total outstanding debt of P3.871 trillion is owed to domestic creditors.


Domestic creditors
2.167 T.
1.704 T.
Foreign creditors

Source: Bureau of Treasury
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

Cebu Pacific gets SEC nod to go public

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LOW-COST CARRIER CEBU AIR INC. of the Gokongwei family has secured the consent of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to pursue its initial public offer of shares worth P14.8 billion.

Based on documents filed with the SEC, Cebu Air, which operates under the trade name Cebu Pacific Air, will offer 155.77 million shares (including over-allotment or additional shares) at up to P95 each.

Of the total offer size, as much as 72 million are new shares while 63.4 million are shares of selling shareholder CPAir Holdings Inc., the Gokongwei family's investment vehicle for its airline business.

The over-allotment option or additional shares that can be issued is up to 20.32 million shares.

Cebu Pacific plans to drum up interest from foreign investors through the sale of a maximum 94.82 million shares out of the total offer size.

Since the airline holds a legislative franchise to operate domestic and international air transport services, foreign ownership is limited to 40 percent under the Philippine Constitution.

Cebu Pacific has tapped First Metro Investment Corp. and ING Bank NV as its local underwriters. UBS Investment Bank is its sole international underwriter.

The company estimated that net proceeds after deducting certain expenses incurred during the IPO would amount to P6.6 billion from the primary offer at the assumed offer price of P95 each. Selling shareholders will receive net proceeds of about P5.8 billion.

Cebu Pacific intends to use the net proceeds to fund capital expenditures—aircraft-related payments, pre-delivery payments for airplanes and spare engine acquisitions, and working capital—for 2008.

The airline has a fleet of 15 aircraft—10 Airbus 319-111 and five A320-214.

The company plans to increase its fleet size in the coming years and has started this by entering into operating lease arrangements for five new A320-214 aircraft. It also plans to acquire up to 20 new A320-200 aircraft beginning in 2010, and 14 new 72-500 turbopop planes, which will enable the company to operate out of smaller airports.

Cebu Pacific's passenger volume as of Sept. 30 was 4 million, compared with 2.4 million in the same period last year.

It flies to 40 local and international routes and has recently added Taipei, Shanghai, Xiamen, Macau and Guangzhou to its international route network. In 2008, it expects to add cities in Vietnam—Ho Chi Minh, Hanoi—and Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei to its routes.

Farmers get additional perk from NFA

By Amy R. Remo

PALAY FARMERS WILL HAVE ANOTHER good reason to sell their produce to the government as the National Food Authority approved the granting of an additional incentive of 50 centavos for every kilo of

FARMERS/ B2

BPO sector seen boosting growth till 2010

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BOOMING BUSINESS PROCESS outsourcing sector can perk up the country's domestic economic growth by up to 1.73 percentage points each year through 2010, Japanese brokerage giant Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. said.

"Economic growth in the Philippines is thus likely to accelerate substantially if the BPO/information technology services industry expands through 2010 in line with government forecasts," Nomura said in its Asia & Emerging Markets research.

In a research paper titled "Outsourcing and the Philippine economy" dated Nov. 28, Nomura said that assuming that sales grow in line with government forecasts up to 2010, growth in the sector could provide the positive impact of 1.73 percent a year on real gross domestic product (GDP) over the period 2007 to 2010.

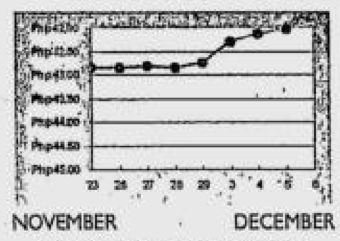
"Of that 1.73 percentage point (ppt), we calculate that 1.01 ppt will be contributed as a direct impact from growth in BPO/IT services industry sales, with a further 0.44 ppt resulting from the knock-on impact on production in other industries, plus a 0.29 ppt impact from consumer spending triggered by increased employee compensation," the Tokyo-based brokerage firm said.

The study tracked the growth of the country's BPO sector and cited the government and industry organizations' forecast that revenues from this industry would be about

BPO/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

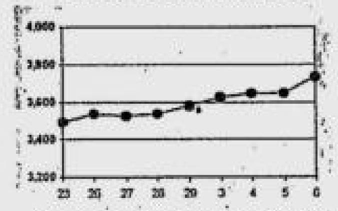


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P41.88 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 6, 2007

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks close 2.3% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 2.3-PERCENT higher yesterday, lifted by Wall Street's upturn amid hopes for a half-point cut in US interest rates, dealers said.

They said all sectors advanced although mild profit-taking in the final hour of trading trimmed gains.

The composite index rose 85.25 points to 3,733.96, off a high of 3,754.75. It was the highest close since Nov. 7, when it settled at 3,788.26.

The broader all-share index rose 40.25 points to 2,264.81. There were 77 advancers and 29 decliners, while 60 stocks were flat.

A total of 3.3 billion shares worth P5.2 billion were traded.

The Dow Jones industrial average on Wednesday rose nearly 200 points following a report showing hiring in the US private sector expanded at a faster pace in November.

Investors there are betting the Federal Reserve will lower rates by as much as 50 basis points at its next meeting on Dec. 11 on expectations that the outlook for the US economy remains shaky.

"Whether it's 25 or 50 basis points doesn't matter," said Jonathan Ravelas at Banco de Oro Unibank.

"Any rate cut should be taken positively as that will give the US economy the much-needed boost," he said.

The US is the biggest market for Philippine exports and where most overseas Filipino workers are deployed.

Cash remittances by Filipinos abroad are a key driver of growth for the Philippine economy.

A cut in US rates may also prompt the Philippine central bank to follow suit.

"We see the Fed cutting interest rates by 50 basis points next week and if the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas does likewise,

STOCKS/ B4

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RP, Spanish firm sign $150-M biofuels deal

FILIPINO FIRM GUIDANCE MANagement Corp. (GMC) has signed an agreement with Green Fuel Corp. of Spain on a joint venture that will undertake several biofuel projects in the Philippines.

The agreement was signed at a business meeting last Dec. 4 in Madrid during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Spain.

The project's investment in its initial phase is estimated at $150 million, which will be allocated to planting 60,000 hectares of palm on the island of Mindanao, creating jobs for some 10,000 families in the region.

As part of the agreement, both companies have formed a joint-venture, which will be open to other local partners from the fuel distribution sector as well as companies that can add value to the biodiesel production chain.

The joint-venture firm will secure raw materials (coconut, palm and jatropha oils) through mass cultivation of oleaginous plants, construct an oil crushing, extraction and refining unit with an annual vegetable oil processing capacity of 200,000 tons, and put up a biodiesel plant with a production capacity of 110,000 tons a year.

This will be followed by the gradual expansion of the company to other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

In a statement, GMC said the initial steps of the project were directed at the extraction of coconut oil, of which there were plenty of plantations in Mindanao, and the planting of a high oil-yielding variety of oil palm used as feedstock.

This would be followed by the sowing of jatropha, once its economic viability and availability in sufficiently large quantities, can be guaranteed, the statement said.

The signing of the agreement was attended by Green Fuel representatives as well as Philippine government officials led by Sen. Miguel Zubiri and Davao Oriental Gov. Corazon Nuñez-Malanyaon.

The link-up between the Spanish and Philippine companies is considered to be the most comprehensive joint-venture agreement signed so far for the Philippine biodiesel industry as it will develop the entire value chain—from the procurement of feedstock, oil crushing, extraction and refining, to the production of biodiesel.

GMC chair Joaquin Rodríguez described the partnership with GFC as "strategic for the joint development of vertically integrated biodiesel projects in the Philippines."

President Arroyo, who witnessed the signing, has pledged her full support for the joint venture, while Zubiri and Malanyaon have underlined their commitment to facilitate the development of the biodiesel project.

Green Fuel president José Luis del Val said their presence in the Philippines, apart from expanding the raw material base required for their projects, "opens up the path to a region, Asia, with enormous economic growth potential, where more than half of the world's population live, from a country (the Philippines) historically rooted with Spain."

DA inks pact with Basque gov't

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture has signed an agreement with the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country in northern Spain to boost cooperation in sustainable fisheries development, aquaculture and marine biotechnology.

According to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, the agreement on fisheries cooperation between the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Basque government's AZTI Foundation covered research projects on biotechnology, sustainable management of the marine environment and aquaculture.

Signed on Dec. 5, the agreement brought to four the number of contracts signed between the DA and the Spanish government.

Under the agreement, Yap said the DA has proposed a P103-million project to develop a mariculture park in Casiguran in Baler, Aurora, as an initial undertaking.

A committee for cooperation will be established to ensure implementation of the agreement, including identification of specific projects to be undertaken.

Yap added that the agreement would include an exchange of researchers, trainers and professional experts, as well as the coordination of research campaigns with the Basque government.

"This agreement is a welcome initiative to bring agricultural cooperation and development between Manila and Madrid to the regional levels," Yap said.

So far, the DA has already forged three agreements with Spain: a P208.77-million grant for agriculture and fisheries cooperation; a MOA with Fundacion Codespa for projects on microfinance, training and technology transfer and a $200-million investment by the Bionor Transformacion to promote biofuels investments.

Yap explained that the deals were expected to strengthen agricultural ties between the two countries and open new windows of cooperation in the fields of biofuels production, microfinancing and coastal management.

Yap said this was the first time the DA forged an agreement with a major European country.

Farmers get additional perk from NFA

From page B1

palay sold to the agency.

Individual farmers and farmer-cooperatives can avail themselves of the 50 centavos-per-kilo La Niña Incentive Fee during the NFA's procurement operations from Nov. 19 this year to March 31, 2008.

The NFA said it was giving the incentive as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration had projected the La Niña to remain up to March 2008.

It said the incentive was on top of those currently enjoyed by farmers and cooperatives: 25 centavos per kilo for palay that meets the NFA's moisture content requirement and delivered to the agency's warehouses and another 25 centavos per kilo for palay sold by farmer-cooperatives.

Marching order

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OKAY, IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE ABOUT 70 percent of the population is said to be dependent on agriculture for livelihood, land ownership is always an emotional issue.

And so trouble still crops up every now and then over the CARP, nickname of the land reform program, although it has been around for the past 20 years or so.

But the thing is, emotions do not a good development sense make!

That is my only problem with that two-month protest march of the group that claims to be farmers in a contested 144-hectare property in Sumilao town in Bukidnon.

Not only is the march designed to catch the attention of news outfits, but it is also intended to tweak the conscience of religious leaders.

Look, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales reportedly asked the Lola at the Palace just to give in to the demand of the marching group—just like that.

That means this administration should just give those 55 marchers all the 144-hectare property that they want to own in the name of CARP.

Even if the land has a legitimate owner, which happens to be a mature corporation, none other than the publicly listed San Miguel?

It does not matter that this same company provides direct jobs and indirect livelihood to hundreds of thousands of other people aside from the marchers?

It seems that the officials of the Ateneo de Manila University dipped into the fray, as they supposedly signed a petition (also to the Lola perhaps) to give in to the marchers.

Sure—let's give everything to anybody who holds a protest march!

Perhaps we shall start by giving away the reported 250 hectares of valuable property owned by a religious group in the same Bukidnon province.

* * *

BELIEVE me, I have nothing against those marchers, even if media played up the protest march to the hilt, perhaps because of the claim that the group is made up of tribesmen from the area.

By the way, I heard that Nestor Holongan, the very chieftain of the Higaonon tribe in Sumilao, has been insisting that the marchers were not members of his tribe.

Who is massaging the facts here—the media or the marching group?

* * *

THE POINT is that the whole affair is bound to pressure this administration to throw away reason.

In various think-tank forums in which the brightest minds in the land have put our version of the agrarian reform program under heavy scrutiny, doubts have been cast over its economic sense.

For instance, how do you make agriculture more efficient in this country, which needs to produce mountains of food badly, since its population (i.e. eating people) is ever growing, by splintering up farmlands into smaller and smaller units?

One paper I read long ago lamented the fact that the small farm units do not encourage private sector investments in multimillion-peso worth of post-harvest facilities. And who else can invest—the government?

But as I said, land ownership was and still is an emotional issue. Nothing happened to those various studies on the effects of CARP. Expected!

* * *

THAT IS precisely the main reason why the local government in Sumilao, headed by town Mayor Marie Ann Baula, approached San Miguel for help.

You see, most of the farmers in the area plant corn.

We know for a fact that the price of the commodity dives down during harvest time, only to shoot up just when the farmers have nothing more to sell.

The price movement can range from P3 to P10 a kilo.

Tell me, do you think that the farmers are really better off that way?

The Sumilao officials thought, and rightly so, that the town needs feed mill to buy the corn at good prices, making the lives of farmers much better.

To do that, they should attract major investments from huge food companies like San Miguel.

Now it so happened that, at that time, the aggressive food company was shopping around for new location for its main business, which is—again—food production.

San Miguel wanted to put up feed mills in Mindanao. Many other towns offered the company equally attractive and viable packages, but San Miguel—for its own reason—chose Sumilao.

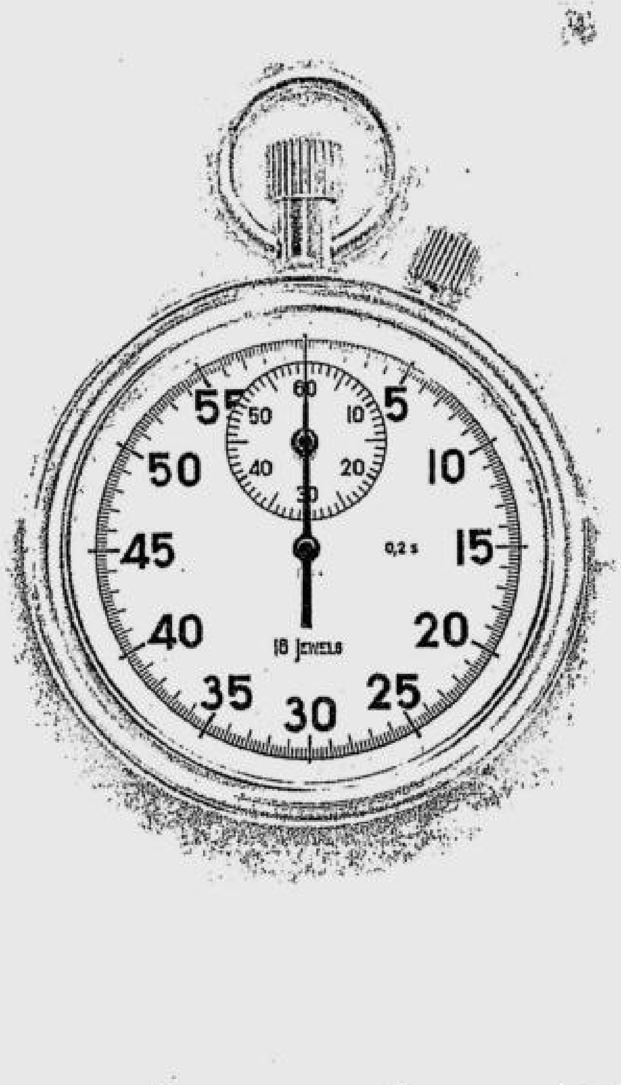
I am not sure if the company now regrets its decision. I can only say that the one thousand or so workers of the company in the area at present must not be regretting it at all.

* * *

THE TOWN officials of Sumilao even conducted public hearings on the possibility of San Miguel's buying the 144-hectare property in the area.

A lot of the town folk cheered the idea, since the company intended pour in some P2.4 billion into an agro-industrial complex there, complete with post-harvest facilities,

BREAKTIME/ B8



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BPO sector seen . . .

From page B1

3.5 times their 2006 level in 2010.

The report estimated the likely impact of expansion on the Philippine economy and on peripheral industries also considered the effect of BPO industry growth on the Philippines' balance of payments and on foreign exchange markets.

"As far as the impact on the Philippines' balance of payments is concerned, growth in BPO/IT services industry sales is likely to result in an increase in the country's current account, with support coming not only from its current transfer surplus, as is the case now, but also from a surplus in its balance of services payments," Nomura said.

The balance of payments measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world.

Nomura also predicted an inflow of foreign direct investment and portfolio investment in the BPO/IT services industry and peripheral sectors such as real estate.

"In terms of the likely impact on forex markets, we look for an increase in underlying upward pressure on the peso," it said.

Nomura noted that in BPO business fields such as call centers and back-office outsourcing, in which Filipino workers can draw upon their English-speaking ability, the Philippines achieved sales around treble those of China in 2006, and came close to half the level recorded in India. It cited several factors contributing to the rapid development of the industry:

- an abundance of human resources with excellent English language skills;
- the similarity of the Philippines' legal, accounting, medical, and other social systems with those of the US, and
- greater cost-competitiveness in the Philippines' BPO/IT services industry following increases in labor costs and real estate prices in India.

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Balanced Fund	1.486492	1.467746
Equity Fund	1.786092	1.745537
Dollar Fixed Income Fund	1.006915	.999396

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life Insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
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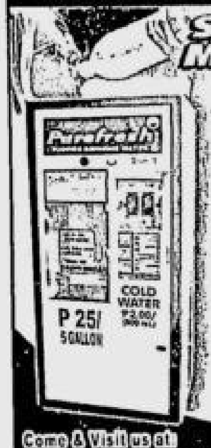

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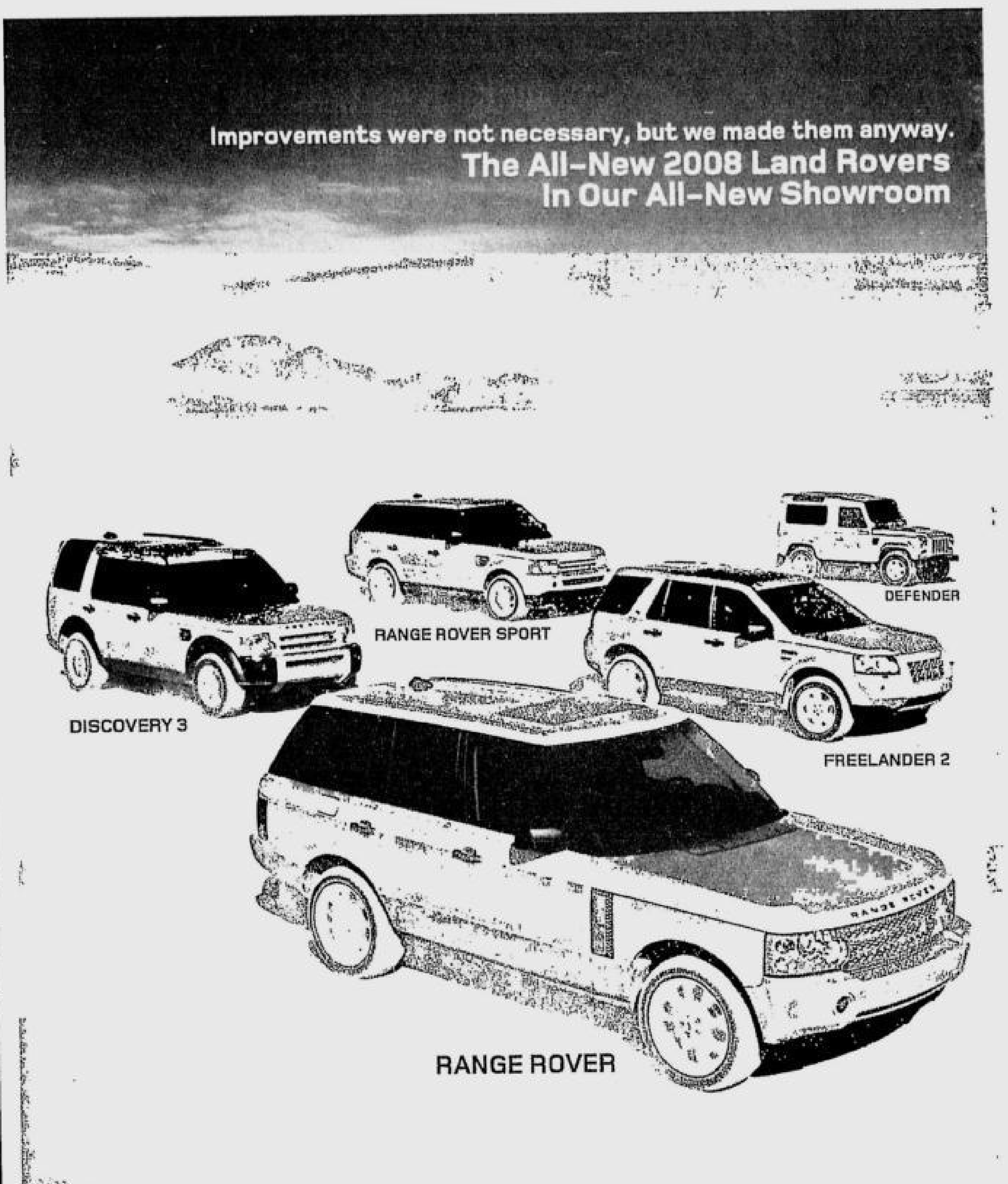
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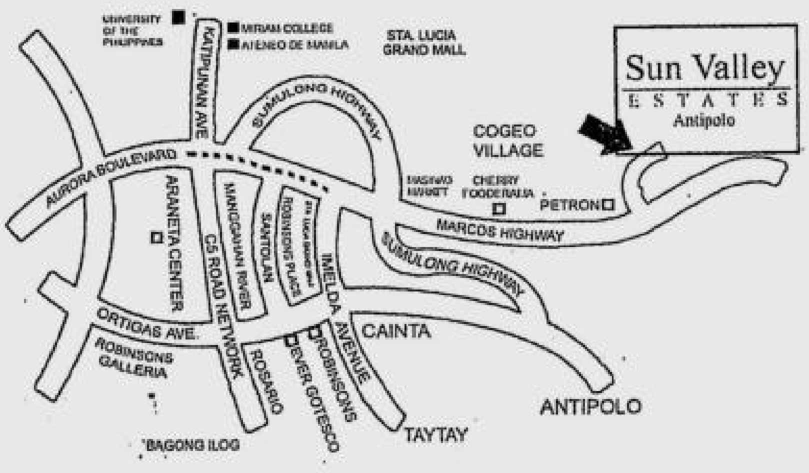
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see page 8

Stocks close 2.3% higher

From page B1

the dollar-peso interest rate differential would at least be maintained at modest levels, which would help keep the peso from rising even faster," said Lim Su Sian at DBS Bank in Singapore.

The peso hit a fresh seven-and-a-half-year high of 41.85 against the dollar in morning trade yesterday and is widely expected to gain more ground with inflows usually strong during the Christmas holidays.

"Rate cuts would also provide some timely support to sluggish domestic lending and more broadly, the economy," Lim said. *AFP*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 6, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	13,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	59.5	60	59.5	60	1,242,600
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	63.5	64	63	64	2,151,400
748	544	China Banking Corp.	680	680	670	670	3,860
23.5	14	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	290,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	59	61.5	59	60.5	5,276,400
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	45	46	319,000
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	60	60	60	60	1,000
39.57	20.43	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.75	25.5	24.75	24.75	1,610,000
90	63	Security Bank Corp.	74	74.5	74	74	100,400
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	224,100
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.9	336,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11.75	12.5	11.75	12.25	1,092,500
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.98	1.1	0.98	1.02	1,980,000
5.9	4.8	I-Remit Inc.	5	5	4.9	5	370,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,640.00	1,640.00	1,640.00	1,640.00	10
5	2.7	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.3	11,513,000
3.1	1.32	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	100,000
1,390.00	260	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,125.00	1,125.00	1,070.00	1,100.00	23,340
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,200.00	2,210.00	2,200.00	2,210.00	800
1.84	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	526,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.6	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.3	[illegible]
0.57	0.22	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.37	0.43	0.37	0.43	6,030,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	63	63	61.5	61.5	988,800
92	51.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	77	79	76.5	76.5	648,700
18.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	18	18.5	18	18	8,009,800
105.45	26.64	Manila Electric Co.	84.5	89	84.5	88.5	5,454,200
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7	7	6.7	6.9	31,557,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	10,487,000
14.75	6.4	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.9	150,000
2.04	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	3,155,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.4	Alaska Milk Corp.	4.9	5	4.9	5	37,000
2.32	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.58	1.58	927,000
28.5	20	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	752,000
61	40.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	51.5	52	51	51	223,800
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	650,000
3.15	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	205,000
80	42.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	51.5	51.5	50.5	51	15,600
88	43	San Miguel Corp. "B"	51	52	51	51.5	223,300
0.66	0.33	Swift Foods Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	170,000
20.75	13.5	Universal Robina Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.75	3,570,800
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	70,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	EEI Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.6	1,111,000
21.5	6	Federal Resources Inv. Group Inc.	11	11.5	10.5	11	22,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	15,000
2	0.81	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.04	10,186,000
23	2.12	TKC Steel Corp.	8.7	8.9	8.6	8.8	541,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.5	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.25	4.5	4.2	4.5	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	4,050,000
9	6.2	Splash Corp.	7	7	6.7	6.8	663,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	158,000
0.185	0.0575	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.13	0.14	113,490,000
1.28	0.29	APC Group Inc.	0.69	0.71	0.68	0.68	5,850,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.5	2.55	2.48	2.55	425,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	26,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	69,000,000
8.7	5.8	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	7,580,000
0.021	0.0095	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	158,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	32,272,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.46	2.46	720,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4	4.1	4	4.1	12,000
645	400	Ayala Corp.	575	595	575	590	224,780
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.25	13.25	13	13	49,100
5.8	1.68	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.35	4.65	4.35	4.5	27,558,000
12	5.6	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.8	1,704,000
9	3.35	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.4	650,000
3.55	1.76	House of Investments Inc.	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1	110,000
14.5	6.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	99,100
26	1.42	Lodestar Investment Hldgs Corp.	22.75	24	22	22	56,800
0.9	0.23	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	50,000
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.6	3,702,000
8.5	3	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.6	6	5.6	6	4,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.245	197,580,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	3,870,000
2.1	1.3	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	18,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	350	355	350	350	597,040
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.37	3,190,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	100,000
2	0.92	South China Resources Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	26,000
2.9	0.93	Vivant Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
0.75	0.12	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	2,830,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.52	1.6	1.52	1.52	315,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.3	17,000
1.06	0.4	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	240,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16.5	16.75	16.25	16.5	29,280,500
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.22	1,471,000
4.7	3.05	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.7	4	3.7	4	1,251,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	310,000
0.63	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.37	7,890,000
0.98	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.86	0.87	87,410,000
0.47	0.0575	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.25	13,450,000
1.46	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.06	14,028,000
2.44	1.32	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.56	1.58	51,696,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.53	0.55	1,610,000
4.6	2.07	Megaworld Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.25	34,738,000
6.4	1.9	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.2	4.35	4.2	4.25	424,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. - Warrants	2.75	3.1	2.75	2.95	712,000
0.7	0.13	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,330,000
0.86	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.46	460,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.5	18.5	18	18	8,423,700
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.05	720,000
13.5	7.76	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11.25	16,423,300
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc.	2.22	2.28	2.2	2.22	3,567,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	1.92	2.06	1.92	2	1,611,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.62	270,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.27	3,890,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	17,220,000
		MEDIA					
36.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	19,800
12	7.6	GMA Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.8	7,727,000
11.75	7.5	GMA Network Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.3	788,000
1.03	0.81	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	180,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	713,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,630.00	1,695.00	1,600.00	1,630.00	60,170
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,080.00	3,145.00	3,080.00	3,125.00	142,100
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	4,476,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	460,000
15.5	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.5	479,500
11.5	3.55	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.5	1,358,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.039	0.036	0.039	22,000,000
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	3.1	3.2	3	3.2	126,000
2.9	1.1	Ionics Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	825,000
0.32	0.05	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	9,230,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.56	1.62	1.52	1.6	7,232,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	43,400,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.65	855,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.28	187,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	4.5	3.9	3.9	1,033,000
49	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	45	46	45	46	553,400
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.92	1.96	1.92	1.96	91,000
2.7	1.12	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.7	1.7	208,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
3.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.38	2.42	2.3	2.3	2,067,000
1.52	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	1.36	1.52	1.36	1.48	72,014,000
1.2	0.55	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	4,030,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	[illegible]	3.15	3.15	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.5	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	30	37.5	30	37.5	130,200
6	2.04	Macroasia Corp.	4.75	4.85	4.75	4.8	764,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	554,000
30	6.2	Paxys Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.4	6.4	334,000
472.5	390	eTelecare Global Solutions Inc.	410	410	410	410	240
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	82,000,000
7.2	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.6	1,227,000
7.4	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	7.2	7.2	7	7	170,000
21.25	8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14	14.25	13.75	14	882,000
16.5	6.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	15.5	16.5	15.5	16	233,900
12.75	1.96	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	168,000
3.1	0.6	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2	2.08	2	2.08	81,009,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.54	0.55	0.52	0.55	109,870,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.59	27,290,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	111,300,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	4,500,000
30	3.6	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	22	22.5	21.75	22	2,311,400
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.014	820,500,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	180,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.9	2,965,000
49.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	305,000
1.36	0.55	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.72	0.77	0.71	0.71	2,610,000
1.8	0.88	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.16	1,732,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	2,020,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	338,500,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	50,100,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	25,000
0.032	0.0095	The Philodrill Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	258,600,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	891.09 UP	17.56	27,075,910	690,545,350.00
Industrial	4,461.27 UP	60.54	91,645,000	1,162,870,715.00
Holding Firms	2,091.30 UP	80.85	630,192,820	821,648,160.00
Property	1,656.72 UP	18.91	298,045,500	1,271,886,640.00
Service	1,887.63 UP	38.58	174,400,410	786,671,840.00
Mining & Oil	8,745.07 UP	115.79	1,899,018,300	397,250,420.00
All Shares Index	2,264.81 UP	40.25		
PSEi	3,733.96 UP	85.25		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,120,377,940	5,130,873,125.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

CURRENCIES

December 6, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.684088	1.000000	42.0570
Japan	Yen	0.006168	0.009017	0.3792
United Kingdom	Pound	1.387399	2.028100	85.2958
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087744	0.128264	5.3944
Switzerland	Franc	0.606837	0.887075	37.3077
Canada	Dollar	0.674976	0.986680	41.4968
Singapore	Dollar	0.472437	0.690608	29.0449
Australia	Dollar	0.596779	0.872372	36.6893
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.826671	2.670227	112.3017
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.182667	0.267023	11.2302
Brunei	Dollar	0.470811	0.688231	28.9449
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000074	0.000108	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.022577	0.033003	1.3880
UAE	Dirham	0.186344	0.272398	11.4562
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.461800	61.4789
Korea	Won	0.000741	0.001083	0.0455
China	Yuan**	0.092595	0.135355	5.6926
Denmark	Kroner	0.134119	0.196055	8.2455
India	Rupee	0.017403	0.025439	1.0699
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204725	0.299267	12.5863
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525776	0.768580	32.3242
Sweden	Kroner	0.106425	0.155572	6.5429
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021188	0.030972	1.3026

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Dec. 5, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Dec. 5, 2007

$3-B China shipping project in RP delayed

From page B1

He said Cosco was prepared to foot the entire bill for site development, including the cost of land reclamation and port construction.

Cosco needs enough land area that could accommodate a pier and a container yard or about 50-100 hectares.

Founded in 1961 as a pioneering international shipping carrier in China, Cosco is a $17-billion corporation that provides services in freight forwarding, shipbuilding, ship repairing, terminal operation, trade, financing, real estate and information technology industry.

Cosco owns and operates a merchant fleet composed of 600 vessels with total carrying capacity of 35 million dead weight tons.

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week December 04, 2007	Last Week November 27, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.66121	1.65567
Managed Fund - Peso	1.94835	1.93046
Growth Fund - Peso	1.89852	1.84714
Equity Fund - Peso	0.98049	0.92925
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4341	1.4171

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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Firms rush Subic power facilities to meet demand

By Ronnel W. Domingo

POWER COMPANIES HAVE have started construction of much-needed facilities at the Subic Freeport zone next year to meet rising electricity demand in the area, according to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

SBMA Administrator Armand C. Arreza said the facilities being put up include Redondo Peninsula Energy's $420-million, 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant, and Subic Enerzone's P210-million systems installation.

Arreza said the projects were started in the nick of time, considering "the continuing influx" of projects in Subic, while more investors worldwide are looking for sites with stable but cheap power supply, along with accessibility and security, investment perks, and skilled manpower.

"These power projects are crucial to the growth of the Subic Freeport and the local economy because they will help reduce the cost of electricity in Subic, as well as address a projected increase in power demand," he said.

According to data from Subic Enerzone, operator of the power distribution system in the Freeport, power consumption in its Subic franchise area has been increasing over the past few years, reaching a total of 17.4 million kilowatt-hours last November.

"This is why we have to upgrade the power system in Subic, and put up additional generation facilities on top of Subic's total output of 130 MW, so that we could be more competitive," Arreza said.

He added that SBMA's mandate to expand the coverage of Subic's tax and duty-free regime is expected to increase investment projects in the area and further burden power supply in the Luzon grid where a 1,950-MW shortage is projected within the next few years.

Arreza said the continuing growth of Clark Freeport, the completion of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and the full operation of Subic's new container terminal and the Hanjin shipyard project are also contributing to "an exponential growth in power demand" in Subic.

Arreza said the Redondo Peninsula's 300-MW plant that would be built near the Hanjin shipyard was designed partly to address the expected surge in electricity demand in Luzon.

"But we've been assured by the project proponent that it will also help bring down power cost in the Freeport," he said.

The project, a joint venture of Aboitiz Power Corp. and Taiwan Cogeneration Corp., is scheduled for completion in 2011, with another 300-MW facility expected to be put up three years hence.

Arreza said that with the expected influx of investments, a progressive power program has to be in place within a short period to maintain Subic's momentum in investment generation.

Also, Subic Enerzone is set to develop new substations, install new field and substation lines, improve switch yards and install additional circuit breakers and power transformers.

Subic Enerzone is now upgrading three power substations, including the restoration or replacement of switch gears, and power cables. It is also constructing takeoff and bypass structures.

ARREZA

Philex
wort

By Amy R. Remo

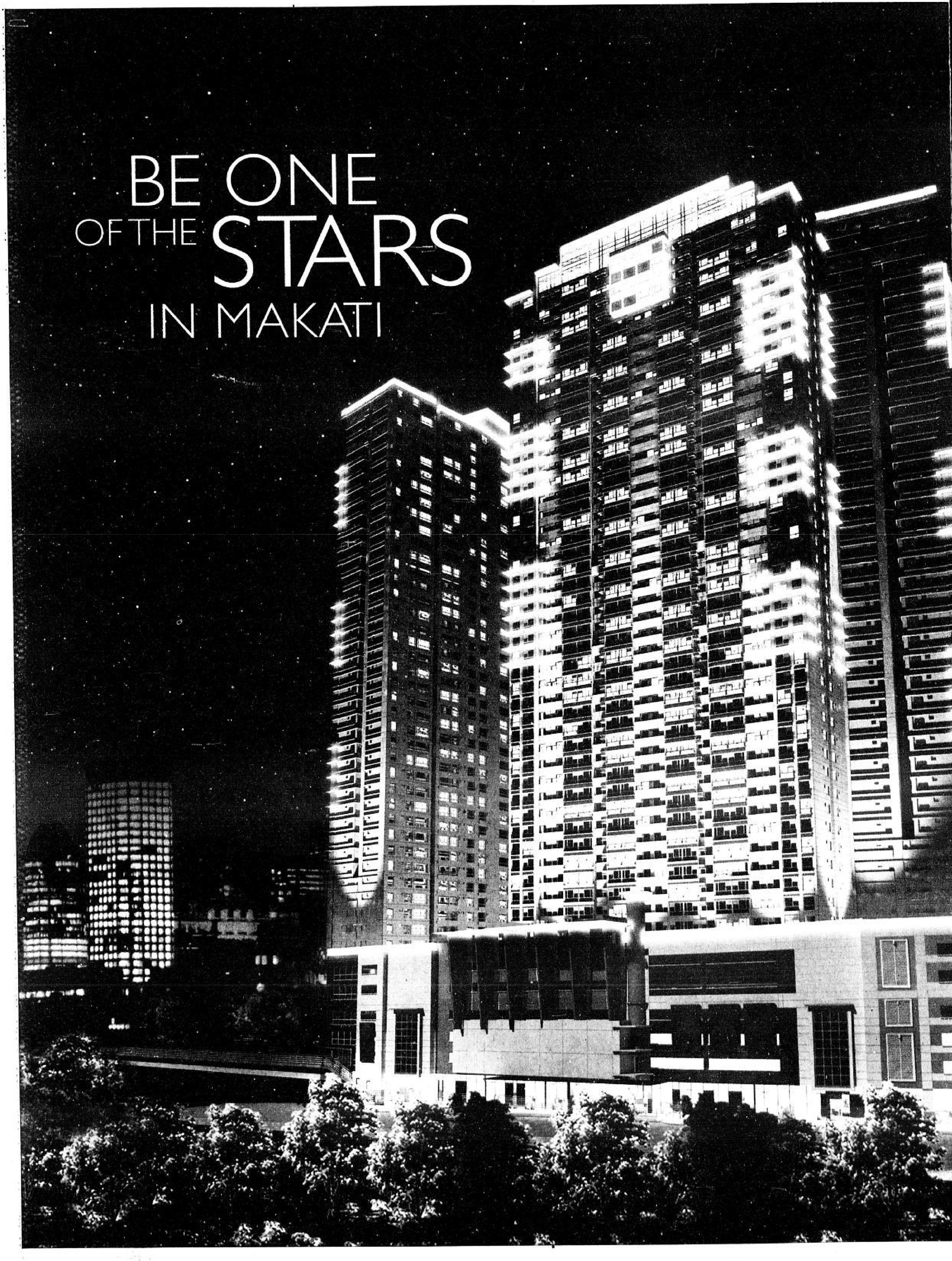
PHILEX MINING CORP. YESterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it shipped out an additional P683 million worth of copper and gold in November.

Philex said in a disclosure that its shipment 643-Pan Pacific contained about 4,996 dry metric tons of copper concentrates from its mining operations in Benguet.

The shipment likewise contained about 2.8 million pounds of copper and 8,904 ounces of gold.

It was Philex' second shipment in November.

The mining firm earlier said



; ships out P684M h of copper, gold

its net income for the first seven months of the year had more than doubled to P3.1 billion from P1.4 billion a year ago due to higher metal prices and mine production.

"We are optimistic that this trend will continue until the end of the year," said Walter Brown, Philex chair and CEO.

He added that with the company's financial performance, Philex's earnings were now equivalent to P1.036 a share from only P0.471 a share in the year-ago period.

According to Brown, Philex was optimistic of a favorable bottom line assuming favorable prices for copper and gold and higher metal production.

"Philex is (also) pursuing other mining exploration projects not only in the country but in other parts of the world as well," he said.

Philex has embarked on an aggressive exploration program this year to take advantage of the steady rise in metal prices.

In Benguet, the company has started extensive exploration of the existing ore body at its mine site and surrounding prospects.

Philex has also programmed several known copper-gold targets for exploration this year, including the Tapaya prospect and the Butan and Midway gold prospects.

DBS expects more cuts in key rates

Singapore-based bank says BSP has room to loosen monetary policy

By Michelle V. Remo

SINGAPORE-BASED INVESTMENT bank DBS said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would likely cut its key policy rates by 25 basis points next month and again in the first quarter next year.

DBS expects the BSP's overnight borrowing rate to be slashed from 5.5 to 5.25 percent and overnight lending rate cut from 7.5 to 7.25 percent during the Monetary Board's meeting on Dec. 20.

DBS also sees the BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates to be further reduced to 5 and 7 percent, respectively.

DBS made the projections despite the slight increase in November inflation, which was due mainly to the increase in oil prices and the tightening of food supply due to unfavorable weather.

Inflation hit 3.2 percent in November from a year ago, the highest since February this year.

Although inflation accelerated in November, DBS said the full-year average increase in consumer prices was still expected to end below the official target for 2007.

"The sharp deceleration in money supply since April will continue to help control the inflationary environment," the research group of DBS said in its latest paper on a number of Asian economies.

The BSP earlier reported that money supply, as measured by M3, grew 11.4 percent in September from a year ago, the slowest in over a year.

M3 is the broadest measure of money supply, which includes currencies in circulation, demand deposits, savings accounts, eurodollar deposits and repurchase agreements.

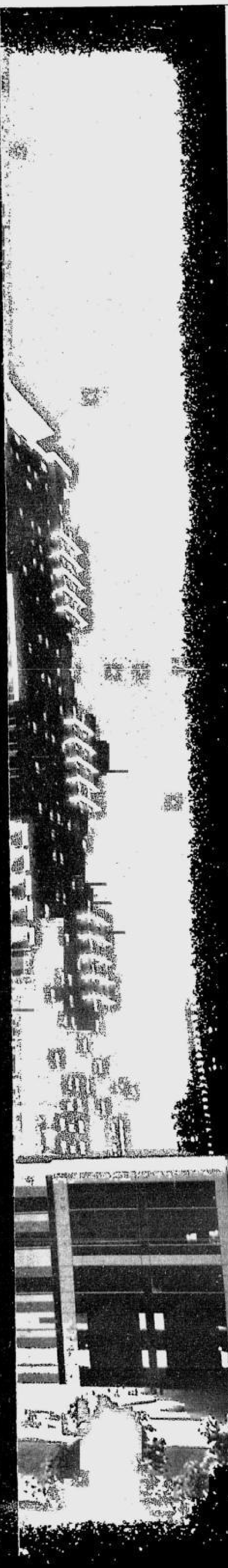
DBS said the benign inflation environment gave the BSP some room to lower its rates and help boost growth.

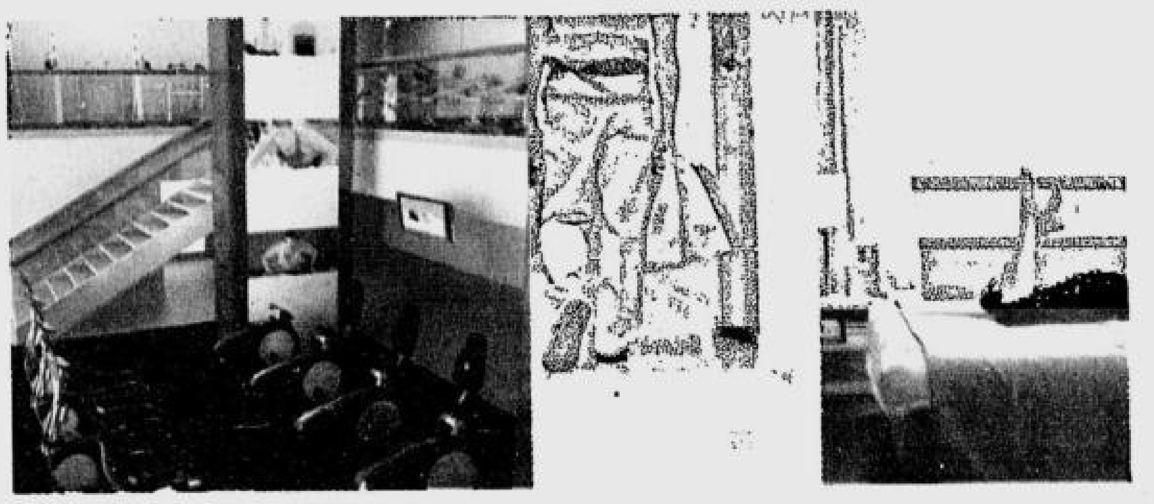
"There are still more benefits to be had from interest rate cuts than standing pat, including maintaining a moderate interest rate differential against the USD (US dollar) as the US Fed trims rates, which should temper the pace of peso appreciation," DBS said.

As the sharp rise of the peso had already elicited complaints from exporters and families of overseas Filipino workers, analysts said, the BSP was forced to come up with ways to ease the appreciation.

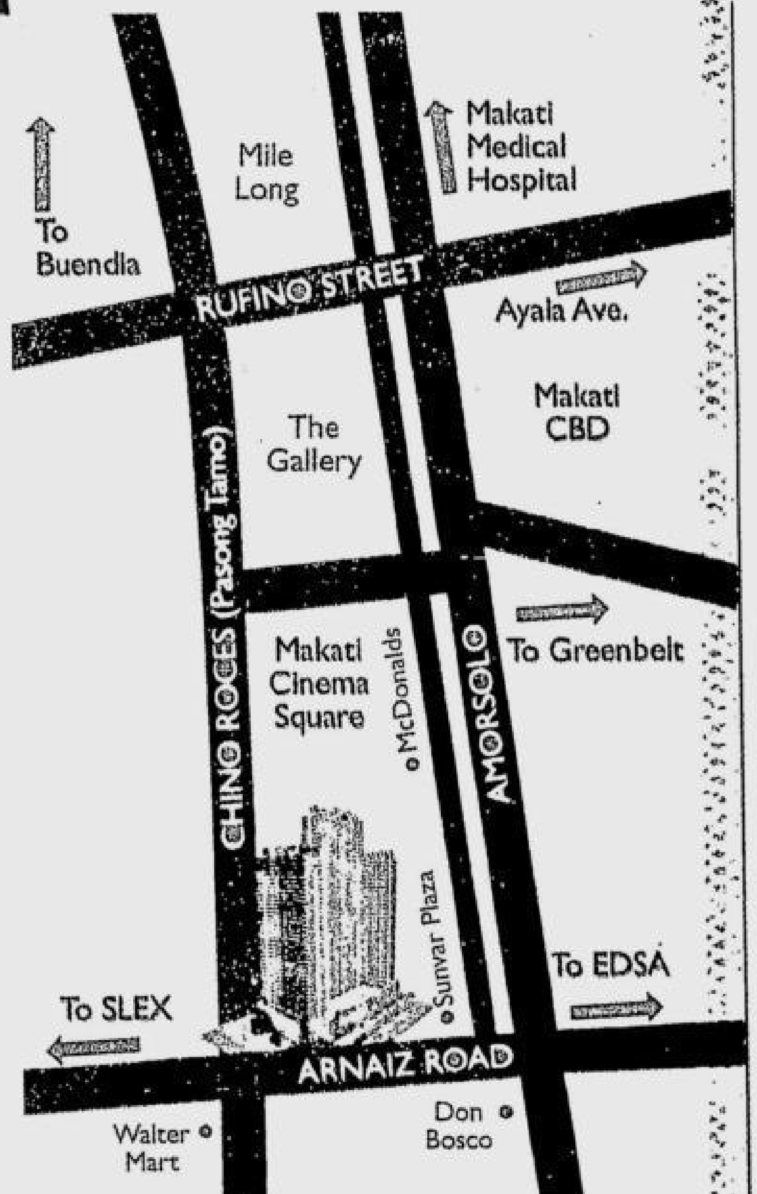
DBS said keeping the Philippine central bank's interest rates not too far from the rate charged by the US Federal Reserve would help keep the peso from appreciating too much.

If the domestic interest rate is significantly higher than that of the US Fed, this would encourage foreign investors to pour in more money to the Philippines, thus resulting in higher demand for and appreciation of the peso.





Unit prices start at P1.5M or as low as P12,888 a month.



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Geo-Estate

Tanduay vying for 10.66% stake in Victorias

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LIQUOR FIRM TANDUAY HOLDINGS INC. of taipan Lucio Tan yesterday said it was bidding anew for the 10.66-percent stake in Victoria Milling Corp. (VMC) held by the sugar mill's second biggest shareholder, the Miguel J. Ossorio Pension Foundation Inc.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, Tanduay corporate secretary Cecilia Pesayco said Tanduay had submitted its sealed bid yesterday for the 170.13-million shares of VMC .

Deutsche Bank AG London, the biggest stockholder of the company, holds a 15.45-percent interest while Philippine National Bank has 10.15 percent.

This is the third time Tanduay has participated in the bidding for the MJO shares. The first two attempts to bid out the stake—one in July 2006 and the other in March 2007—failed as the minimum bid price was not met by the bidders.

In 2003, Tanduay Holdings Inc. granted a five-year P300 million loan to VMC at very low interest rates to help the country's biggest sugar miller to start its rehabilitation plan. It was given the option to convert the loan into VMC shares from the third year from April 8, 2003 at a conversion rate of one common share for each P1 of principal debt. So far Tanduay has not exercised that option. Should it do so, it will gain a 15.8-percent stake in VMC.

In 1995, VMC started to suffer serious financial woes as a consequence of increased foreign and local competition and from losses arising from unprofitable nonsugar ventures. It failed to settle its debts prompting the firm to seek rehabilitation.

Warrant plan boosts RP bonds

Higher bond prices, lower insurance cost

PHILIPPINE DOLLAR-DENOMINATE bonds yesterday jumped after the Bureau of the Treasury said it would issue warrants that would allow banks to assign these sovereign bonds zero risk-weighting for capital adequacy purposes.

Late on Wednesday, the BTr said it would issue warrants through a Dutch auction early next year to enable holders of its foreign currency bonds to convert to peso bonds in the event of default.

The warrants will allow holders of Philippine sovereign bonds to exchange an equivalent face value of bonds maturing before September 2016 into peso-denominated 9.125-percent bonds maturing Sept. 4, 2016.

That boosted its bond prices and pushed down the cost of insuring its debt.

"The warrants will allow local banks to skirt the Basel II capital charge," a trader said.

"They won't have to set aside any capital for these offshore bonds if they have these warrants," he added.

Philippine bonds due in 2032 were quoted at 99.375/99.875 cents to a dollar and 2031 bonds at 114.875/115.125, both higher by half a point from Wednesday although a quarter-point off the day's high.

The country's five-year credit default swaps (CDS)—insurance-like contracts that protect against default or restructuring—tightened by 5-6 basis points (bps) to 156 bps.

Spreads elsewhere in the market were marginally tighter, tracking higher emerging debt prices after a report showing US private employers added 189,000 jobs in November, the largest monthly increase in a year, beating Wall Street forecasts.

The benchmark JP Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Plus narrowed by 7 bps to 242 bps. This followed a 5 bps tightening in overnight New York trade.

Benchmark bonds from ports-to-telecoms conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. due in 2033 moved in by 2 bps to 198/190 bps over US Treasuries.

In the meantime, bonds from South Korean broadband firm Hanarotelecom rose after a deal this week to buy a 40-percent stake in it by higher-rated SK Telecom strengthened its credit profile.

Hanarotelecom's 5-year CDS moved in by 10 bps to 100/160 bps.

Reuters

Water crisis worsening

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST MARCH 20, IN PREPARATION FOR the World Water Day celebrated two days later, Alyansa Agrikultura leaders asked then Natural Resources Secretary Angelo Reyes for a National Multi-sectoral Water Summit, which had not been held for the last three years. Despite the fact that farmers use 70 percent of the water in the Philippines, the agricultural sector, unlike the other sectors, had no position in the last summit.

In addition, the farmers also gave Secretary Reyes information about the alarming water crisis in the Philippines, as well as their potential role in addressing this problem. Secretary Reyes responded by saying that a water summit would be held before the year ended.

Last month, Alyansa leaders followed up this matter with Secretary Reyes. However, he said he could not do much because he had transferred to the Department of Energy. The year is now ending, the request for a National Water Summit at the DENR is still under consideration, and the water crisis is worsening. What should be the next step?

ADB Study

On Dec. 3, in an INQUIRER article "RP Faces Water crisis–ADB" written by Doris Dumlao, she wrote: "The Philippine water resources are fast deteriorating with rapid urbanization, with only 33 percent of river systems still suitable as a supply source, and up to 58 percent of ground water now contaminated."

She got this from a recent Asian Development Bank (ADB) publication "Asian Water Development Outlook 2007" launched last week.

Though Filipino researchers have written a great deal about the Philippine water crisis, perhaps it might take a multinational organization like the ADB, with a perceived more objective analysis, to wake us up from our stupor.

The ADB study highlights the Philippines as a country with a very critical water situation. Among its alarming findings are:

- Ground water will amount to only 20 percent of the total water requirement in the country's nine main urban centers by 2025;
- Solid waste generation in Metro Manila is expected to double by 2010. But only 65-75 percent of the waste generated is collected, with only 13 percent of that recycled. The remainder is thrown just anywhere, particularly into creeks, threatening health and increasing flooding;
- The majority of solid waste disposal in land filled sites are poorly operated and maintained, permitting leachate to pollute water resources; and
- Forty-eight percent of water pollutants arise from domestic waste, 37 percent from agricultural waste and 15 percent from industrial waste.

Because agriculture uses 70 percent of the water and contributes 37 percent of water pollutants, in addition to agriculture depending on water for its very survival, agriculture has clearly a big role to play in addressing the water crisis. Despite Secretary Reyes' initial plan, the year is now ending, there is still no summit, and consequently there is still no comprehensive water plan.

Climate change conference

In the meantime, another event that should increase the sense of urgency for holding the water summit was reported in a full-page advertisement in a major daily two days ago. This was the First National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation. With Gov. Joey Salceda as the lead convenor, 1,200 participants from all sectors converged in Legaspi, Albay, to draft the "Albay Declaration on Climate Change Adaptation."

Among the specific plans of action agreed upon were the following:

- To promote "climate-proofing" through genuine multisectoral participation;
- To promote the mainstreaming through the DILG, the leagues of local government units, and in possible partnership with regional councils for sustainable development;
- To encourage government to get additional official development assistance (ODA) for climate change adaptation, particularly in areas such as "land and water use … coastal zones and fisheries … farming practices," and other critical areas.

From this declaration, we note four elements: (1) the need for a multisectoral approach, (2) the importance of mainstreaming of the local government units, which had previously been given a minor role, (3) the critical contribution of the agricultural sector, and (4) water as a major factor in climate change and global warming.

Recommendation

The delayed National Multi-sectoral Water Summit should now have two important elements not present in the last 2003 summit. The first is that the agricultural sector will not be relegated to the background, but instead play a prominent role. Besides, they are the biggest users of water, and they are the ones pushing hardest for the summit.

The second is that the local government units should take a leadership role in the conduct of this event. In the climate change conference, a local government unit executive, Governor Salceda, was the lead convenor. For after all, it is the local government units that are best suited to help in the actual implementation of a national strategy for water. It is therefore recommended that an LGU executive share the leadership role with the natural resources secretary to help ensure effective program implementation.

Whatever the final arrangements are for the water summit, it is hoped that they be decided immediately, for the water crisis worsens daily.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112.)

Zed plans to put up SE Asia HQ in RP

ZED (FORMERLY LANETRO ZED) has announced plans to put up in the Philippines its Southeast Asian regional headquarters.

The announcement was made during the recent visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Spain.

"We have shared with President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of her official delegation our plans and willingness to increase the presence of Zed in the Philippines. This decision is, however, hedged in clearing regulatory difficulties and legal obstacles we are encountering in the country," Javier Pérez Dolset, founder and CEO of Zed, said in a statement.

Zed has been operating a local office since 2000. It is asking the National Telecommunications Commission to address an undefined regulatory issue regarding the ownership of value-added service providers.

Zed earlier acquired Information Gateway, the Philippine subsidiary of British firm MonsterMob Group PLC. The litigations with former owners of Information Gateway have resulted in difficulties on the part of Zed to take over control of the company.

Zed, one of the biggest mobile content firms in the world in terms of revenue and geographical presence, considered putting up its regional headquarters here due to the country's strategic location.

Zed's planned Philippine regional office will service the mobile content requirements of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

In the statement, Pérez said "it would make sense for us to set our Southeast Asian headquarters in Manila, since our business in the country exceeds $50 million and we are confident that bilateral business between Spain and the Philippines can only grow in the near future. "We appreciated very much the interest shown by the Philippine (government) in securing such a significant international investment in the country."

Liberty Telecom files for rehabilitation

By Riza T. Olchondra

LIBERTY TELECOM SAID IT HAD applied for rehabilitation with Branch 149 of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Liberty corporate secretary Efren Chavez said the company had engaged the services of Florentino & Esmaquel Law Offices to serve as legal counsel for its petition for rehabilitation.

On Dec. 31, 2005, Liberty Telecom suspended its business operations due largely to financial woes. Its debts ballooned to P482.8 million in 2006, up from P338.4 million a year ago.

Liberty Telecom is a holding company engaged in providing telecommunication products and services through its subsidiaries.

The company offers wireless voice services, connectivity services, Internet, international lease line, international frame relay, private Internet protocol services and video teleconference services.

Its subsidiaries include Liberty Broadcasting Networks Inc. (LBNI) and Skyline Logistics Inc.

LBNI is a telecommunications carrier offering services that range from nationwide telephone service to data communications, interexchange carrier services and international voice and data connectivity services.

Skyline Logistics does the marketing, distribution and logistics support services required by LBNI.

Pacifica raising capital to ₱500M

LISTED MINING FIRM PACIFICA INC., which is 33.6-percent owned by Mikro-Tech Capital Inc., said it had received shareholder approval for the increase in its capital to P500 million from P200 million.

In a recent disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Pacific said it had increased its capital stock to 40 billion shares at a par value of one-half centavo (P0.005) to 100 billion shares at the same par value.

In a separate statement, the company said the proceeds from the increase in capital will be used to acquire several mining claims and companies to be injected into Pacifica.

Officials could not yet identify its new investments as of press time.

The stockholders also approved the declassification or merger of Pacifica's class A and B shares which will lift the limit on foreign trades of the company's shares.

Class A shares are those traded by local investors while class B shares can be bought by foreign investors.

Romero, who is also the president of Harbour Centre Port Terminal Inc., is Pacifica's chair and chief executive officer.

Harbour Centre earlier expressed interest in participating in the privatization of the North Harbor.

Romero also holds pending applications with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau for exploration permits and mineral production sharing agreements involving various types of mineral ores (such as gold, iron and nickel) in the Philippines, Pacifica earlier said in a financial disclosure to the stock exchange.

Breaktime

From page B2

poultry and piggery farms, a wastewater treatment plant, a reservoir for potable water, and forest redevelopment.

I mean, how would you not like such a blueprint? It would benefit the corn farmers of Sumilao a great deal. Not only that, it would benefit everybody in the area.

When after the public hearings, the town in effect gave its go-ahead to San Miguel, the company started its project in earnest.

Thus, today San Miguel has already constructed 21 buildings in the complex, or more than half of the number in the approved investment plan.

* * *

NOW THE leaders of the protest march are selling the line that San Miguel is only after the projected value of the property. You know—something like real estate speculation!

Question: How much do you think the property will be worth in the future? I mean, without the San Miguel investments in the town?

Look, the company is investing P2.4 billion on the property. This is much, much more—a hundred times more—than what the property will ever be worth without its investments.

It is the other way around, boss—the San Miguel investments will add value to the land in the area.

And that includes even those 65 hectares of farm lands that the government reportedly already gave to the leaders of the marching group under the same CARP.

Why? Well, with San Miguel around, the area will soon burst with economic activities. The feed mill alone will improve the income of the farmers there instantly.

Plus, the San Miguel employees will create a spending power in the area that it has never seen before. Small businesses will thrive. Thousands other jobs will be available.

For anywhere they go, companies like San Miguel serve as catalysts to economic growth. It is the only way. Mankind still has to invent another way to make people's lives better.

Really, we need a little order in this court of public opinion. Right now.

Discover, experience and enjoy the high life at Sun Valley Estates. Here everyday is fresh and green.

After all these years of suffering from the congestion and pollution of Metro Manila, I took a trip farther East. There I found Sun Valley Estates.

Private, picturesque and serene are the best description of Sun Valley Estates, found in the heart of Antipolo, amidst tall trees and majestic mountainous landscape.

You can build a house along the rolling hills of Antipolo where the air is cooler and fresher. It is place where life begins for you and your family. It has luxurious amenities to pamper you and the freedom for you to live a life of peace and harmony. These include a uniquely designed clubhouse with swimming pool, basketball court, jogging paths, fishing lagoons, picnic grounds and many more.

There will be an open house on December 8, 2007 at Sun Valley Residential Estates. Average lot sizes range from 300 to 350 square meters. The choices of lots not only overlook the golf course, but also afford great views of the Manila skyline. Several townhouse units and model homes are available for immediate occupancy.

During the open-house, there will be an exhibit entitled "Guhit Kalikasan", an on-site painting done by the students of Miriam College at the Golf Course area. Come and join us. Let's discover, experience and enjoy the high life at Sun Valley Estates Antipolo.

For inquiries call: Sun Valley Sales Office- 681-8240 / 645- 9054 and 09178450402.

Sun Valley
ESTATES
Antipolo

RP urged to quit farm subsidies, focus on R&D

WB cites need to resolve widening rural-urban divide

By Amy R. Remo

THE WORLD BANK IS URGING THE Philippine government to move beyond providing subsidies to the local agriculture sector and, instead, focus on "crop-neutral investments," such as research and development, farm-to-market roads and policies.

According to the World Development Report 2008, entitled "Agriculture can promote inclusive growth with strategic public investments in Philippines," the country has evolved from relatively neutral agricultural price and trade regimes in the early 1980s to substantially protected ones today through subsidies.

"Larger farmers and producers [usually] benefit more [from] subsidies, while the poor suffer more," report co-author Luc Christiaensen said. "This [mechanism] may not be the best way to solve the rural-urban divide."

In a briefing, Christiaensen also said that in the East Asia Pacific region, the rural-urban divide has been increasing, with poverty concentrated in rural areas.

In the Philippines, about 70 percent of poor Filipinos live in the provinces, with agriculture and fisheries usually as their only means of livelihood.

Carolina Figueroa-Geron, World Bank senior operations officer for rural development country sector, said that for assistance to trickle down to smaller farmers in the rural areas and to lessen the rural-urban divide, government must focus on capacity building.

"Capacity building is a long process, but more sustainable than providing subsidies since the latter do not build up on previous gains," Geron said in a separate interview.

She also cited the government's need to focus on investing in roads, safety nets, measures, market development, as well as research and development and extension services.

"Assistance should be functional rather crop-specific so that all sectors can tap it," she said.

Such assistance would better prepare, equip and enable the Philippines, for instance, to take advantage of new opportunities in agriculture, both in domestic and international markets.

According to Christiaensen, there are three new growth opportunities following globalization and increasing worldwide diet diversification.

As consumption patterns change, new markets for nontraditional agriculture and fisheries produce have opened up, he explained.

Between 1990 and 2004, the WB report showed a 300-percent increase in nontraditional exports of aquaculture products.

New technologies and institutional innovations have also presented new opportunities for the agriculture sector to tap.

This year, the World Bank's agriculture commitments to the country had reached $3.1 billion, with projects spanning over three- to five-year periods.

Review of annual reports

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

RECENTLY, I SAT IN THE DELIBERATIONS of the panel of judges in the selection of the best annual report for 2006.

A joint project of the Management Association of the Philippines, Philippine Stock Exchange and BusinessWorld, the award seeks to encourage the observance of the principles of good corporate governance by Philippine companies, particularly those listed on the stock market.

In spite of the developments in communications, the annual reports remain the most effective means for widely held companies to touch base with their shareholders.

Managers of investment funds go through these yearly publications with fine-toothed combs so they can be properly guided in their decisions.

In times past, reading the financial statements in annual reports was like going through a college paper or masteral thesis.

It was bad enough that the accounting figures were printed in small letters that made reading them hard and tedious.

Worse, footnotes or explanatory notes often occupied half of the pages forcing the reader to shift his eyes from top to bottom to find out what the numbers mean.

With the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards prescribing the manner of presentation and content of the information that should be disclosed, the need for footnotes has been substantially minimized.

Standards

Today's annual reports, at least for the companies listed on the stock exchange, are more substantive, well-defined, and have the right amount of photos to make a pleasurable reading.

The reports are fit to be displayed in the offices of investment bankers and fund managers in the financial capitals of the world.

The awards organizers formed three technical committees to review the annual reports of the listed corporations in the areas of compliance and disclosure, corporate governance and user-friendliness.

The vetting process resulted in the short-listing of 20 finalists. This number was further reduced to five, whose scores were carefully evaluated by the judges.

The panel of judges that reviewed the five finalists for the best annual report concurred with the ratings given for corporate governance and user-friendliness.

The deliberations centered more on compliance and disclosure as it relates to the observance of accounting rules in the reporting and treatment of significant business activities.

The judges' attention was drawn to the reports that failed to identify the company's controlling shareholders or "parent" company.

Real ownership

Under ordinary circumstances, the listing of the names and stockholdings of a company's major stockholders would suffice.

But if the stockholders are corporations and these corporations are, in turn, owned by companies, the rules require the disclosure of the identity of the ultimate owner of those stocks.

The rationale behind the requirement is simple: The investing public has a right to know who is in actual control of the levers of power in the company that they have put their money in or may be interested in investing.

The ownership disclosure assumes greater significance if the business that the corporation is engaged in is covered by nationality ownership rules under the Constitution or existing laws.

A similar case of incomplete disclosure was noted with regard to joint venture agreements entered into by some of the companies.

The reports failed to give sufficient information about the scope of the companies' participation in the joint ventures. There was no word about the assets involved, liabilities incurred, expected revenues and attendant expenses.

Although mention was made about the objectives and salient features of the joint project, the investing public is unaware of the extent of the company's financial involvement.

Neither is the stockholder given the opportunity to figure out the possible adverse effects to him and the company if the undertaking does not live up to the expectations of management.

Awarding

There were other accounting lapses that the panel of judges saw, but they were not of such nature as to diminish the integrity and accuracy of the financial statements.

The errors may be attributed either to human error or lack of familiarity with the new accounting rules which took effect in 2005.

It's interesting to note that the 20 finalists in the 5th MAP Best Annual Report Awards represent the major players in the stock exchange.

Five of the companies are with the Ayala business conglomerate.

In what may be considered a significant development, six banks are included in the list. The Henry Sy-led business group has three of its companies vying for the honors.

The Aboitiz group has two companies in the running.

Last year, Macroasia Corp. won top honors, followed by Aboitiz Transport System and Manila Water Company.

The awarding ceremonies will be held on the evening of Dec. 11, 2007 at the Hotel Inter-Continental.

(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph>.)

AUCTION

www.goindustry.com

LIVE AUCTION SALE

ON: TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2007 - 10;30AM SHARP

At.: LIETZ Industrial Complex, Edison Ave. (P. Leviste), Km. 14, SLEX, Parañaque City

MACHINE SPARES: SUMITOMO Injection Moulding Machine; THREE-ROI ½ H.P. Water Pumps; 15, 10 & 5 Tons Aircon Compressors; FSP Motor Drives, Pillow Block; OZITO Fan Cooled Mig Welder; etc.
GYM EQUIPMENTS/EXERCISERS: LIFESTRIDE Treadmills 9500/TR4500; STAR TRAC Recumbent Bikes; STAR TRAC Lifecycle Bikes 9500; LIFESTEP 9500; FLEX Dumbel Rack; etc.
ELECTRICALS: TELEMECANIQUE Contactors; Transformers; SUMITOMO Optical Wire; Coaxial Wire Cables; Circuit Breakers; Circuit Contactors; SIEMENS & CROMTON Current Transformers; G.E. Power Control Fan Assemblies; Voltmeters; Halogen Flood Lights; Street Lights; PHILIPS Fluorescent Lamp; ENTRELEC Terminal Block; Lighting Fixtures; Electrical Wires; etc.
LAPTOPS & COMPUTERS : HP/COMPAQ Pentium M 1.4 GHZ Laptops; DELL/IBM Pentium 4 2.0GHZ Laptops; COMPAQ Pentium 4; 2.4 GHZ Processor Computer Sets; CPU's; Monitors; Keyboards; etc.
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENTS: Workstations; Executive /Guest / Clerical Swivel Chairs; Glass Display Cabinets; Watch Display Cabinets; Hanging Cabinets/ Hanging Shelves; Office Tables; Four, Three & Two Drawers Lateral Cabinets;Carpet Tiles; Dismantled Partitions & Table Tops; VIVACE 230 Photocopier, GPJ-1120 Overhead Projector, UPS's; etc.
KITCHEN/HOUSEHOLD GOODS: Stainless Steel Storage Cabinets w/ Counter; Stainless Steel Storage Cabinet w/ Food Preparation Counter; GASUL Portable Gas Burners; MIRRO Pressure Cookers; G.E. Single Door Freezer; MEZZO Personal Ref.; Microwave Oven; UGOLINI Juice Dispenser; Mini Food Processor; MISTRAL Cool Fan; Thermo Electric Cooler/Warmer; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS: DAIKIN Model ACEF Air Cleaners/Purifiers; Chemical Filters; Fiberglass Heaters; PORCHER Toilet Pans w/ Tank Fitting / Lavatories; Pneumatic/Air Cylinders; KYOCERA Copying Machine; DEWALT Power Hand Tools; GMC Compound Mitre Saw; Motorized Auto Wrench; 1 Ton Cable Puller; 2 Tons Hydraulic Floor Jacks; ALLTRADE 36" Folding Creeper; Steel Racks; Asstd. Color Stickers; etc.

On View: Monday 10th December 2007 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php5,000 (upon registration)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office XIV
ARMM Complex, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Trucking/Hauling Services
Project Reference No. 2008-06 Trucking

The National Food Authority, through its Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum of **TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P2,428,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for 2008 Procurement of Trucking/ Hauling Services covering January to December 2008 as follows:

Lot No.	Source of Stocks	Destination	Estimated Volume to be Hauled	Required Minimum Number of Stocks	Rate/ bag of 50kgs.	ABC	Required Non-Refundable Fee
1	Lanao Sur Var. Whses	Malabang	30,000 bags	2 6 wh. trucks	P30.00	P900,000.00	P4,000.00
2	Basilan	Wharf to Whses	130,000 bags	4 6 wh. trucks	P3.60	P468,000.00	P2,000.00
3	Sulu	Wharf to Whses	90,000 bags	15 tamaraks	P6.00	P540,000.00	P2,000.00
4	Tawi-Tawi	Wharf to Whses	80,000 bags	5 tamaraks	P6.50	P520,000.00	P2,000.00
			330,000 bags			P2,428,000.00	

The description of an Eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/ fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138).

Hereunder is the Schedule of Bidding Activities

Activities	Date/Time	Venue
1. Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	December 7-14, 2007	RBAC, NFA, Region XIV Cotabato City
2. Pre-bid Conference	January 9, 2008 1:30 p.m.	Conference Room, NFA, Region XIV, Cotabato City
3. Submission of Bid Documents	January 21, 2008 1:00 p.m.	Conference Room, NFA, Regional XIV, Cotabato City
4. Opening of Bids	January 21, 2008 1:30 p.m.	Conference Room, NFA, Region XIV, Cotabato City

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee set by lot in the amount specified above starting December 7-14, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Form of Bid Security are as follows:

Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC
1. Cash/Cashier's Check/Manager's Check Payable to NFA issued by a reputable Bank	One Percent (1%)
2. Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked as callable on demand	Two & Half Percent (2.5%)

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend the Bid Opening. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the RBAC Chair, ARD Ofelia M. Sero, RBAC Vice Chair, Provincial Manager Kitem P. Kadatuan and RBAC Member Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer Nelson P. Sañada.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to waive any formalities or defects found herein or to accept such bid or award to a contract considered most advantageous to the NFA/GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **OFELIA M. SERO**
BAC Chairman
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY,
Regional Office XIV
ORG Compound, Cotabato City
Tel. No. 390-1416
Fax No. (064) 421-2128

(PDI - Dec. 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office XIV
ARMM Complex, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Handling Services
Project Reference No. 2008-06 Handling

The National Food Authority intends to apply the sum of **SEVEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY PESOS ONLY (P7,553,580.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Handling Services for various operational activities for CY 2008, brokendown as follows:

Lot No.	Source of Stocks	Est. Vol. of bags of 50 kg to be Handled	Estimated Number of Moves	Rate/ bag of 50kgs.	ABC	Required Non-Refundable Fee
1	Maguindanao Various Warehouses & operational activities	968,000	Min of 2 Max of 4	2.15	P4,164,980.00	P1,500.00
2	Lanao Sur Various Warehouses & operational activities	272,700	Min of 2 Max of 4	2.00	P1,090,000.00	P1,000.00
3	Basilan & operational activities	250,200	Min of 2 Max of 4	2.00	P1,000,800.00	P 500.00
4	Sulu & operational activities	169,250	Min of 2 Max of 4	2.00	P 677,000.00	P 500.00
5	Tawi-Tawi & operational activities	155,200	Min of 2 Max of 4	2.00	P 620,800.00	P 500.00
		1,815,350			P 7,553,580.00	

The bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The National Food Authority thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), NFA Regional Office XIV, Cotabato City now invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Handling Services covering January to December 2008. The description of an Eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/ fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138).

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Form of Bid Security are as follows:

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1. Cash/Cashier's Check/Manager's Check Payable to NFA issued by a reputable Bank	One Percent (1%)
2. Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked as callable on demand	Two & Half Percent (2.5%)

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend the Bid Opening. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the RBAC Chair, ARD Ofelia M. Sero, RBAC Vice Chair, Provincial Manager Kitem P. Kadatuan and RBAC Member Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer Nelson P. Sañada.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to waive any formalities or defects found herein or to accept such bid or award to a contract considered most advantageous to the NFA/GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **OFELIA M. SERO**
BAC Chairman
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY,
Regional Office XIV
ORG Compound, Cotabato City
Tel. No. 390-1416
Fax No. (064) 421-2128

(PDI - Dec. 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Faheem Ahamad Mohammad Indian	Consultant
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Maruthi Srikanth Kidambi Indian	Consultant
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Daniel Ko Ee Vee Singaporean	Consultant
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Nilesh Gajanan Pore Indian	Consultant
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yan Qi Khoo Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kennedy Indonesian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kar Hin Cheong Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tjahyadi Tanurdin Indonesian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Rusli Indonesian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chee Hou Yeo Singaporean	System Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Teck Soon Low Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wei Chee Lee Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Edy Supian Indonesian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ah Beng Au Singaporean	System Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Seng Yap Koh Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shi Mon Kuan Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Cheang Chiang Tan Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tandy Hendra Indonesian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Siang Hooi Poo Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Peck Loong Lee Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chong Kit Len Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kim Thai Foo Malaysian	Customer Service
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hui Meng Lee Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Anton Wijaya Indonesian	Operation Analyst
HENKEL ASIA PACIFIC SERVICE CENTRE 29/F LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Eun Sil Ji Korean	Accounting Specialist
D&T GLOBAL CORP. Unit 702 Richville Corporate Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Do Won Kim Korean	Marketing Director
KP NAVER CORP. Rm. 301, 3/F Corporate Center, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sang Hyub Yang Korean	Marketing Consultant
KP NAVER CORP. Rm. 301, 3/F Corporate Center, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jong Won Kim Korean	Financial Consultant
XMAN SERVICES PTY LTD Unit 1203, 12/F LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Nicholas Hamline Treweeke Australian	Senior Commercial Advisor
MY WINE THE BEST ITALIAN WINES SELECTED BY GIUSEPPE RONDINI CORP. Unit 31-E Robinson's Tower I, Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila	Giuseppe Rondini Italian	CEO/Manager
PHILIPPINE-KOREAN MANAGEMENT & TRADING CORP. 745 Remedios St., Malate, Manila	Seonghyun Jeon Korean	Director/Operational Manager
EMERIO PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 2703 Union Bank Plaza, Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Nandakumar Raghavan Nambiar Indian	Vice President and Head of Operations
GLOBAL STEEL PHILIPPINES (SPV-AMC) INC. Unit 2703, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Sedeno cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Pintu Kumar Choudhury Indian	Business Analyst
PRAISE REALTY MARKETING CORPORATION Suite 1109 Herrera Tower cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Chang Kil Kim Korean	Marketing Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. 53/F PBCom Twr., 6795 Ayala Ave., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Peng Zhang Chinese	Product Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. 53/F PBCom Twr., 6795 Ayala Ave., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Fereydoun Sabour American	Chief Technical Advisor, Global Marketing
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. 53/F PBCom Twr., 6795 Ayala Ave., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Yuheng Liu Chinese	Technology Support Consultant
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. 53/F PBCom Twr., 6795 Ayala Ave., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Chong Zhang Chinese	BSS Consultant
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. 53/F PBCom Twr., 6795 Ayala Ave., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Mingyuan Yang Chinese	Procurement Manager
ESQUIRE INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INC. Cityland 10, 1106 11/F dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Tarlochan Kaur Indian	Evaluator
RELI TOURS & TRAVEL M/F Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City	Hitoshi Matsuda Japanese	Supervising Visa Officer
ULTRA FRESH TRADING CORPORATION No. 20 Road 1, Arty Subd., Talipapa, Novaliches, Quezon City	Dong Hui Kang Korean	Supervisor
Y & J POWER EDUCATION CORP. 12/F Tycoon Ctr. Condo., Pearl Drive, Ortigas, Pasig City	Eun Young Park Korean	General Manager
JUST IN CASE SVCS CORP. Globe Telecom Plaza 1, Unit 615 Pioneer cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City	Jun Hong Kim Korean	Operation Manager
ROYAL PALACE KIMCHI INC. 2006 Roxas Blvd., cor. Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila	Geumok Choe (wife of LEE) Korean	Marketing Manager
ESQUIRE INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INC. Cityland 10, 1106 11/F Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Kuldeep Kumar Indian	Manager
ESQUIRE INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INC. Cityland 10, 1106 11/F Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Parmjeet Kaur Indian	Asst. Supervisor

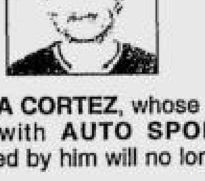
If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI - December 7, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AutoSport



This is to inform that **NELSON BAÑARIA CORTEZ**, whose picture appears, is no longer connected with **AUTO SPORT 24 CORPORATION**. Any transaction entered by him will no longer be entertained after December 1, 2007.

(PDI--Dec. 7, 2007)

PDI Kalaw Branch

has been transferred to:

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg.,
490 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila
(in front of National Library)

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SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

Tampakan Copper - Gold Project

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL SUPERINTENDENT

The Tampakan Copper-Gold Project is a large scale mine development project at feasibility stage. It is located approximately 65 km north-northwest of General Santos City on the island of Mindanao and is managed by Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI).

General Santos has a population of approximately 500,000 people and is accessed by sealed highways, a major deep water port within Sarangani Bay and a modern international airport.

A vacancy currently exists for an Environmental Technical Superintendent based in General Santos City. Reporting to the Resident Manager, the role will preferably have a minimum of 8 - 10 years exposure to environmental management in a mining or industrial setting.

Key responsibilities will include:

- Leadership and development of a team of professionals to ensure the Company's continued compliance and adherence to all relevant statutes, licences, and agreements
- Delivery of a structured Environmental Management System consistent with the principles of ISO14001
- Participation in environmental audits (EMS, Compliance, Sustainability and others)
- Gain the necessary environmental approvals for SMI to sustainably conduct its business, including but not limited to, Environmental Certificates of Compliance and SMI EPA licences
- Management and timely delivery of key information inputs to a range of stakeholders required as part of the Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)
- Regular communication and report updates to senior site management and Xstrata Copper Project Development Team
- Provision of sound technical advice to SMI exploration teams and other departments on environmental management issues
- Liaison with Philippine statutory agencies and the general community on environmental performance and associated activities
- Effective management of resources and prudent exercise of cost controls on operating and capital budgets within own area of responsibility
- Contractor / consultant management

The ideal candidate should :

- Have a strong educational background in environmental engineering, environmental management or natural resource management
- Have at least 5 years experience in a managerial position
- Be proficient in the use of a range of software applications including Microsoft Access, Excel, Powerpoint, Mapinfo (GIS) and Internet
- Possess sound problem solving, time management and interpersonal skills
- Have well developed communication abilities
- Be strongly oriented on safety and workplace standards
- Exercise a high level of confidentiality
- Demonstrate an ability to lead people and manage resources according to plans and schedules
- Be highly self-motivated with a strong desire to achieve successful outcomes

Submissions are to include a letter of application and CV highlighting professional strengths, qualifications and employment history. Applications close 14 December 2007 and should be emailed or sent to:

HUMAN RESOURCES
Sagittarius Mines, Inc.
JPM Building, Bula-Lagao Road
General Santos City
Tel No : (083) 552-8407
Fax No : (083) 552-8405
Email : humanresources@smi.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR) invites all bonafide shipbuilders/shipyards to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Project : **Drydocking and Repair of three (3) Units Fiberglass BFAR Patrol Vessels;**

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) - Php 1,600,000.00

(1) DA-BFAR MCS 3006
Particulars:
LOA - 30.00 m
Breadth - 6.00 m
Gross Tonnage - 112 G.T.
Depth - 3.4 m
Draft - 1.5 m

(2) DA-BFAR MCS 1101
Particulars:
LOA - 11.00 m
Breadth - 3.90 m
Gross Tonnage - 19.65 G.T.
Depth - 1.85 m
Draft - 1.00 m

(3) DA-BFAR MCS 1103
Particulars:
LOA - 11.0 m
Breadth - 3.90 m
Gross Tonnage - 19.65 G.T.
Depth - 1.85 m
Draft - 1.00 m

Only MARINA accredited shipbuilder/shipyard are qualified to participate in the bidding.

The bid documents shall be available at the BFAR Property Section starting **December 10 to December 14, 2007** upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00.

The Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished Eligibility Requirement, Technical and Financial Proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes in the bid box at the BFAR Conference Room not later than **December 21, 2007** and shall be opened on the same day by the BFAR BAC in the presence of the participating Bidders who wish to attend.

For more information and clarifications, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. 426-3168 and the Technical Working Group (TWG) at Tel. No. 929-6668.

BFAR reserves the right to waive any informality in the response to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. BFAR further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding,or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that the contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI - Dec. 7, 2007)

Picpa participates in Ifac Global Survey

IN RECOGNITION OF "WORLD Accountancy Week," which runs from Dec. 2 to 8, the International Federation of Accountants (Ifac) has released the results of the first annual Global Leadership Survey of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) and other accountancy organizations worldwide. The survey highlights issues the profession will be addressing in the coming year and presents perspectives on factors affecting economic growth, both on a national and global level.

Results showed that national president Andres Cabuyadao of Picpa, together with the vast majority of leaders of national professional accountancy organizations, believes that a strong accountancy profession plays a key role in economic development and that an important focus in 2008 will be maintaining the profession's good reputation. Picpa continues to provide Continuing Professional Education Programs to its members and coordinates with the various Philippine regulatory agencies (Securities and Exchange Commission, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Office of Insurance Commission, and Bureau of Internal Revenue) in the accreditation process for the accounting profession, works with accounting educators to implement new curriculum in accordance with international standards and promotes strict compliance to international code of ethics and principles of good governance. The Philippine accountancy profession is under the Professional Regulation Commission-Board of Accountancy, and its standard setting bodies are the Financial Reporting Standards Council and Auditing and Assurance Standards Council.

A summary of survey findings along with responses to the full survey may be obtained from the IFAC website by going to http://www.ifac.org/globalsurvey.

The Philippine accountancy profession is proud to have had the opportunity of having Washington SyCip, a past national president of Picpa, as Ifac president in its formative years.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Twentieth Death Anniversary

of

JAIME V. ONGPIN

June 15, 1938 - December 7, 1987

Message of Thanks

WE, THE FAMILY OF

ELISA DATU REYES

(Nanay Ely)

(November 15, 1916 – November 24, 2007

wish to convey our deepest gratitude to all of you - our relatives, friends and colleagues who spent precious time with us, sent flowers, mass cards, gave donations, or in some way expressed your love, concern, and sorrow with the loss of our beloved mother. God bless you all.

CLARITA G. RUFFY

of Tuy & Nasugbu, Batangas

peacefully joined our Creator
on December 5, 2007 at the age of 91.

Her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nasugbu Batangas (Ancestral Home)

Interment will be on Sunday, December 9, 2007

"Come to Me all who are weary
and burdened, and I will give you rest"
– Matthew 11:28

DR. JOSE B. TARACATAC

June 19, 1919 – December 4, 2007

His bereaved wife **Corring**; children **Marian** and **Arnel Palomique**, **Terry** and **David Beechcroft-Kay**, **Jay** and **Suzette**, **Benjie** and **Mia**; grandchildren **Marc**, **Miguel**, **Katrina**, **Chloe**, **Rafael**, **Ramon** and **Gabrielle** request the faithful to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Moncada, Tarlac.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 8, 2007 after the 9:00 A.M. Mass at St. Raymond Nonnatus Church, Moncada, Tarlac.

Atty. Felipe L. del Rosario, Jr.

His loving wife, Lyda, children, Dennis and Esther, Francis, Toti and Vin, Liza and Louay, Roy and Aileen, brothers and sisters, Lita and Cesar, David and Virgie, Salve, grandchildren, request relatives and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul on his FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY.

The Holy Sacrifice of the mass will be offered for him on December 7, 2007 at the following:

St. Michael Chaplaincy, Fort Bonifacio	- 6:30am
The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio	- 3:00pm
Holy Rosary Church, Orani, Bataan	- 5:30am
St. Gregory The Great Parish, Indang, Cavite	- 6:00am
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, City of Sta. Rosa	- 7:00pm
St. Gerald Church, Livonia, Michigan	- 9:15am
Parroquia San Cristobal, Lorca, Murcia, Spain	- 7:30pm

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
JUANITO V. EDUARTE	Superior	December 8, 2007 9:00 AM	Himlayang Pilipino
INVENCION D. SORIO	Imperial Classic	December 14, 2007	Alcala, Cagayan
BRIGIDA D. DOOLITTLE	Chapel - 5	December 7, 2007 8:00 AM	Paz Crematory

---

DY SING LOU

...passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on December 3, 2007 at the age of 87.

His children **Virginia**, **William**, **Moriel**, **Henry**, **Dennis**, **Jimmy**, **Jocelyn** and **Mathew**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Sanctuarium (Chapel Freesia), 739 G. Araneta Avenue corner Agno St., Brgy. Tatalon, Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 8, 2007 at Holy Cross Memorial Park at 1:00 p.m.

Death Notices

TEOFILO M. MIRANDA

passed away on Nov. 30, 2007 at the age of 92.

His remains lie in state at Chapel I, Dulce Funeral Homes, Abad Santos, Manila.

The body will be brought to the Kambal na Krus Chapel in Raxa Bago, Tondo tomorrow, Saturday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m. and interment follows after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Manila North Cemetery.

ISABEL ESPIRITU VALENZUELA

Aug. 4, 1916 - Dec. 3, 2007

Her body lies at Loreto Church, Bustillos, Sampaloc, Manila

Interment will be on December 8, 8 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	Supply and delivery of the following furniture requirements for the proposed BSP Branch Building in Tuguegarao per BSP furnishing specifications Lot 1 – Sofas 12 pcs. One-seater Sofa 05 pcs. Three-seater Sofa Lot 2 – Workstations (including installation) and Mobile pedestals 01 pc. Receptionist's Workstation 01 pc. Utility Workstation 03 pcs. Utility Workstation 14 pcs. L-type Workstation 05 pcs. L-type Workstation 01 pc. L-type Workstation 01 pc. Director's Workstation 01 pc. L-type Workstation 40 pcs. Mobile Pedestal Lot 3 – Filing cabinets and Lockers 01 pc. Lateral File Cabinet 2-drawer 05 pcs. Lateral File Cabinet 3-drawer 40 pcs. Lateral File Cabinet 4-drawer 22 pcs. Steel Locker
Approved Budget for the Contract	Lot 1 – P 286,000.00 Lot 2 – P 2,174,000.00 Lot 3 – P 930,000.00
Delivery Period	Lots 1& 3 – not later than April 15, 2008 Lot 2 (including installation) – not later than March 15, 2008

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from Y2002 to present amounting to at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC/s) of the lot/s to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 07 December 2007, not later than 2:00 PM
2. Pre-bid Conference	04 January 2008, 2:00 PM, Room MR2A
3. Opening of Bids	22 January 2008, 2:00 PM, Room MR2A
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR-A) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003, as amended.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 or 0.05% of the ABC/s of the lot/s to be bid, whichever is higher.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR
Chairman

(PDI – December 7, 2007)

More Classifieds on pages

COMELEC	A11
DOLE-Reg IV	A17
Furnimaxx International	A17
ZAJ Advertising	B9
National Food Authority – Trucking	B9
National Food Authority – Handling	B9

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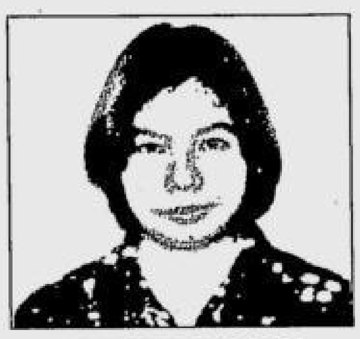
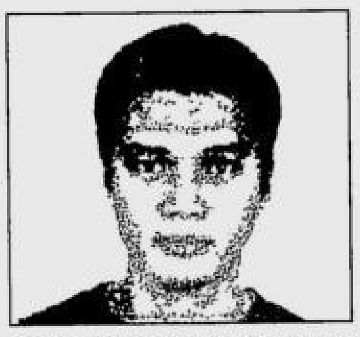
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



ANETTE P. LACSON



RYAN PATRICK SOLIMAN

Notice is hereby given that the abovementioned persons whose pictures appear above, are accused of the crime of estafa in Criminal Case No. 15147 pending before Branch 42 of the Regional Trial Court of San Fernando, Pampanga. They are also accused of the crime of falsification of commercial documents in Criminal Cases Nos. 06-6226 and 06-6227 pending before the 2nd Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Mexico-San Luis, Mexico, Pampanga. They are the subjects of outstanding warrants of arrest. Positive information leading to their arrests shall be rewarded. Please contact Atty. Dan P. Calica of the Poblador Bautista and Reyes Law Offices, through telephone number (632) 893-7623.

(PDI--Dec. 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE GHQ BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE II
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the GHQ Bids and Awards Committee II, invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Construction of AFPCMO School Building:

Nomenclature/ Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) Php	PCAB License Required	Submission/ Opening of Eligibility Requirements	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
PB-GHQBACII-OTCE-177-07 Construction of AFPCMO School Building	P8,895,799.31	Small "B"	December 12, 2007 9:00 AM (Wednesday) Venue: OJ6 Executive Theater, Bulwagang Syquio	P3,000.00

Office of the GHQ Bids and Awards Committee II Secretariat
3/F Bulwagang Syquio, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo,
Quezon City
Contact Person: *LCDR PABLO O FUENTEBELLA JR PN*
Tel Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6845 / Cel # 09192534534
Fax Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6485

(PDI - Dec. 7, 2007)

NOTICE

No. DUBA/434/1/07(135) Dated: 28 Nov. 2007

Mr. Adil Firoze Rustomjee
S/O. Mr. Firoze Kalasha Rustomjee
Resident of : Phirojsha Building, 70-C, August Kranti Marg, Gamdevi, Mumbai - 400036, India
Present Address : Al Falaknaz Bldg., Flat 306 A, Karama, Dubai

and Miss Catherine Bermilio De Asis
Daughter of : Mr. Julio Develuz De Asis
Resident of : 632-H Boni Serrano Road, Libis, Quezon City, Philippines
Present Address : Tourist Club Area Navigate, Abu Dhabi

Both Indian and Filipino nationals presently residing in Dubai have given notice of **Intended Marriage** between them under the foreign marriage act, 1969. If any one has any objection to the proposed marriage he/she should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the act/ rules **within thirty days** from the date of publication of this notice.

(Sgd.) **K. G. KESAVAN**
VICE CONSUL
Consulate General of India
Dubai (U.A.E.)
MARRIAGE OFFICER
CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
P.O. BOX 737, DUBAI, U.A.E.

(PDI - Dec. 7, 2007)

HIGHEST THIS YEAR

Coco product exports surged 42% in Oct.

By Amy R. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S COCONUT product exports surged 41.6 percent in October to 223,071 metric tons in copra terms from last year's 157,570 MT, boosted mainly by the increase in coconut oil exports.

According to preliminary data from the United Coconut Association of the Philippines, October's export volume was the highest so far this year, followed by the April 2007 volume of 170,941 MT.

Ucap added that the growth was the biggest so far this year.

Ucap said much of the increase came from exports of coconut oil, which surged 47.3 percent to 123,634 MT from 83,950 MT in the same month last year—exceeding the monthly average export of 70,886 MT for 2007.

Coconut oil is refined and processed to make cooking oil, and is also a major raw material in the manufacturing of soap and other beauty products.

Except for desiccated coconut, there was a marked increase in the deliveries of other major coconut products in October.

Copra meal shipments increased 26.5 percent to 54,879 MT from 43,374 MT while exports of oleochemicals (as copra) rose by 47.3 percent to 10,715 MT from 7,275 MT in October last year.

On the other hand, desiccated coconut exports dropped 5.5 percent to 10,421 MT from 11,022 MT from October last year.

The figure, however, was only slightly lower than this year's monthly average of 10,856 MT.

Despite the significant growth in exports of coconut products, January to October (year-to-date) shipments only reached 1.38 million MT in copra terms, a decline from 1.71 million MT in the same period last year.

For the first 10 months, coconut oil shipments reached 708,859 MT (from last year's 902,081 MT); copra meal, 323,913 MT (from 373,054 MT); desiccated coconut, 108,556 MT (from 115,367 MT); and oleochemicals as copra, 89,957 MT (from 96,098 MT).

According to Ucap, the United States remains the primary destination for coconut oil during the month with total shipments reaching 61,958 MT—about half of total coconut oil export volume.

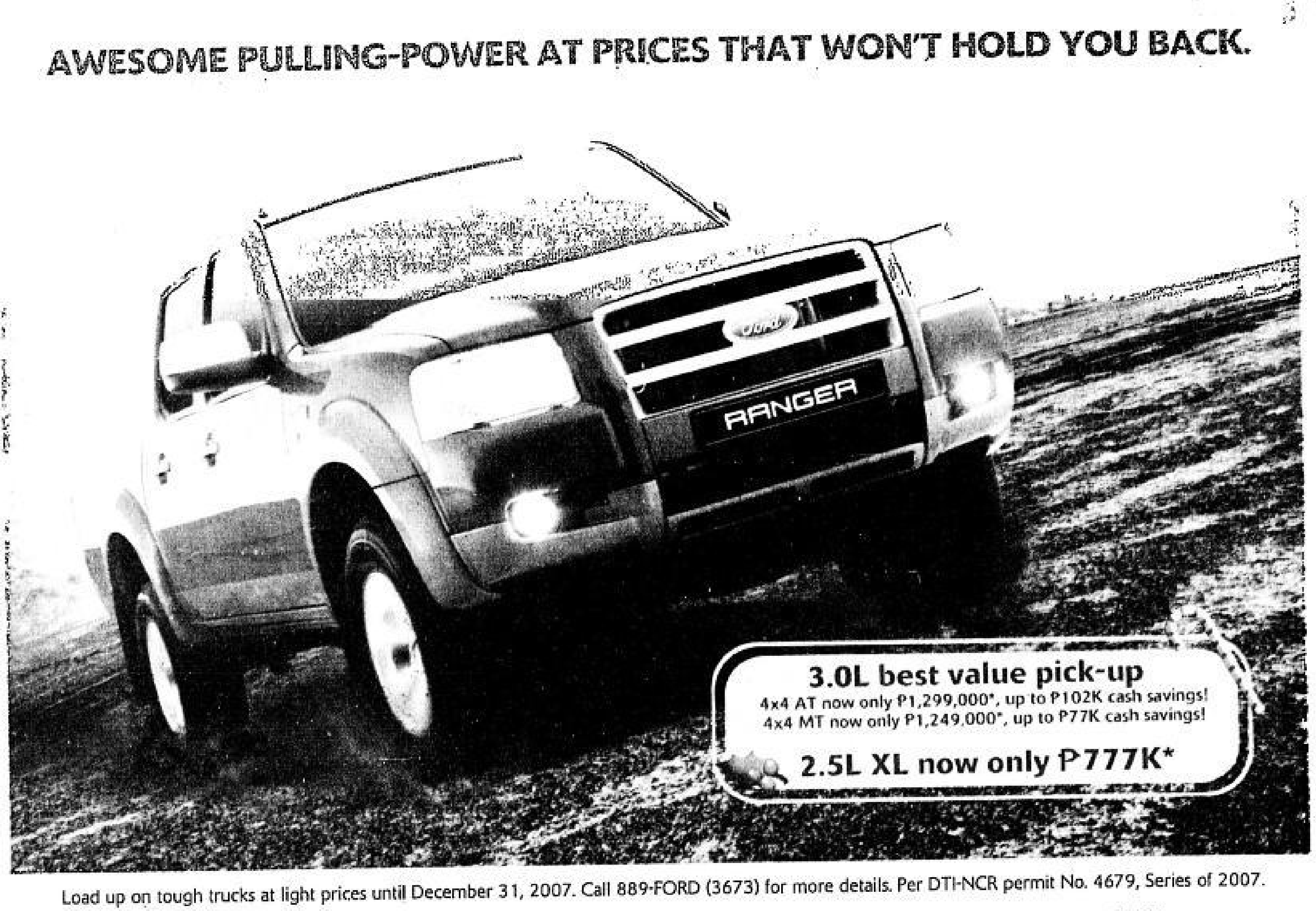
Europe came second at 54,650 MT, representing 44.2 percent of total export volume.

Other markets were Japan (4,164 MT), Malaysia (2,010 MT) and Taiwan (852 MT).

Meanwhile, Korea remained the biggest market for copra meal with an uptake of 31,329 MT in October, comprising about 57.1 percent of total export volume for copra meal.

Vietnam came second, absorbing some 16,300 MT or about 29.7 percent of total export volume for copra meal.

The rest was shared by Japan (4,200 MT) and Singapore (3,050 MT).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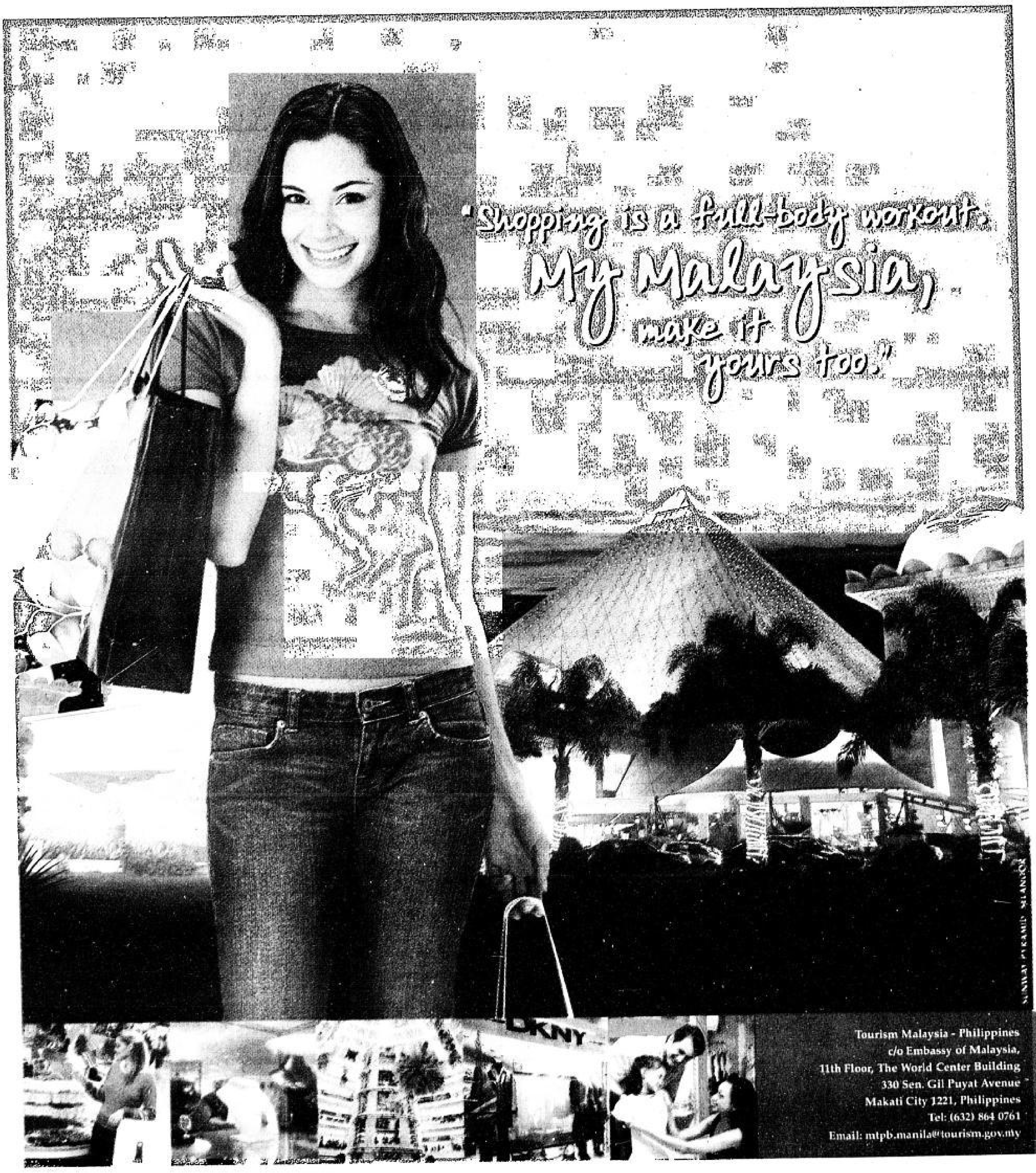
- Ford Libis, Tel No: 637-2044
- Ford Manila, Tel No 562-5555
- Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel. No.: 732-3943
- Ford Shaw, Tel No. 717-0888
- Ford Batangas, Telefax (043) 723-5759
- Ford Cabanatuan, Tel. No. (044) 464-0111 and (044) 463-9600
- Ford Cavite, Tel. No. (046) 472-2040
- Ford Dagupan, Tel. No: (075) 522-2222
- Ford Pampanga, Tel. No: (045) 963-5202
- Ford San Pablo, Tel. No. (049) 562-8324
- Ford Bacolod, Telefax: (034) 441-0865 and (034) 441-0115
- Ford SM Lipa, Batangas, Telefax: (043) 723-5759
- Ford Cebu, Tel No: (032) 231-9180
- Ford Iloilo, Tel. No. (033) 321-3351/52
- Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. No. (088) 855-8811
- Ford Davao, Tel. No. (082) 234-1111
- Ford EDSA Quality Care Center, Tel No: 744-2222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Why branding is an investment and not an expense

Buying is now emotion-driven from function-driven

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

THE WORLD COMPETITIVENESS roadmap charted by the IMD (International Institute for Management Development) from 2007 to 2050 cites brand management as a key area of competitiveness in a world of globalization.

This means that while there is a continued demand for commodity products and services, brands are more likely to generate consumer loyalty and survive hyper-competition from local and global players.

Time is valuable. Technology and world urbanization have led to major changes in consumers' lifestyle that has become increasingly fast-paced, with people having little time to spare. Thus, purchase behavior is driven by what consumers know and are familiar with even before they step into the retail area. Here lies the value of brands that have over time established their names, meaning and differentiation versus other category players in the minds of consumers. Consumers at a snap are able to decide what brand of product or service to buy due largely to stored mental information thus, wasting no processing time at all.

Brands add value beyond function. As world economy improves and there are more consumers belonging to the middle class, buying motivations change from being entirely functional and driven by price to one that is more emotional where purchases are made because the product or service brings a smile to the consumers, is like a social badge or is a means to help a remote village in Africa. At the very least to many, brands provide the guarantee of making the right purchasing decision when faced with a multitude of choices among competitive products or services.

Competition is no longer local but global. The entry of global players in many country markets is a threat that domestic or national players can only overcome by making investments to own a place in the consumers' minds. While local brands may have no intent to bring their product or service overseas, this does not prevent foreign competition to move into local territory. At the very least, owning a space in the customers mind guarantees the product or service provider fair play in the market.

Brands have a sustainable life span versus commodity products. There goes the saying, "out of sight, out of mind." If consumers are not familiar with the product or service

WHY BRANDING/ B2-2

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Trellised Canopy Walkway
Pergola
Special Paving Pattern
Sculpture Water Feature
Pedestrian Garden Plaza
Sitting Area
GARDEN TOWER 2
GARDEN TOWER 3
Game Room
Business Center
Bleachers
Basketball/Tennis Court
Trellised Canopy Walkway
Function Room
GARDEN TOWER 1
Pool Deck
Cabana with Tensile Fabric Roof
Shallow Water Foot Bath
Bubble Pool
Landscaped Sun Deck
Outdoor Spa
20-meter Lap Pool
Pool Deck
Cabana with Tensile Fabric Roof
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FEATURES IN BRIEF

Tuck School of Business holds Manila talk

THE TUCK SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT DARTmouth cordially invites prospective MBA students to attend an information session regarding the MBA Program at the Tuck School. The session will be an excellent opportunity to meet current students, alumni and other candidates. Tuck is unique in that it combines the intellectual depth of the Ivy League with the soul of a tight-knit community. Tuck recently placed No. 1 in the Wall Street Journal's 2007 ranking of business schools. The session will be held at the Drake Function Room at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas, Pasig City on Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. Please confirm your attendance by sending an email to joel.s.obillo@tuck.dartmouth.edu.

Study confirms importance of network

A RECENTLY RELEASED USAID-FUNDED study conducted by Ateneo's Economic Policy Reform and Advocacy (Epra) on "Rural Banks and Remittances" confirms the strategic role of the Nationlink Network in the future of foreign money remittance in the Philippines.

The Nationlink Network, which began operating in May 2006, took 10 years to develop and put together. It was designed from the ground up to bring modern financial services to the countryside, especially to the poor and marginalized. As the official ATM/POS network of the rural banking industry, Nationlink has successfully brought rural banks to mainstream banking.

According to the study, the proliferation of the Nationlink Network can bring about a "promising alternative" for handling foreign money remittances. "Nationlink is the fourth ATM network in the country and aims to provide electronic network to interconnect thousands of branches of rural and cooperative banks to enable these institutions to deliver modern financial or banking and payment services to the countryside."

Nationlink has an office in the US, allowing remitters to send money to the Philippines. "Beneficiaries in the Philippines who are Nationlink ATM or debit cardholders can receive the remittance by withdrawing from the Nationlink ATM machines."

The study concludes with policy recommendations, stating that several studies have advocated the "integration of rural banks to the mainstream banking system." It says: "A more important consideration is the inclusion of rural banks into the payment system in order for them to benefit from the efficient money transfer operations currently being experienced by the commercial and thrift banks."

The efficient and cost-effective delivery of remittances directly into the accounts of beneficiaries in rural banks will definitely spur economic development in the countryside.

The Nationlink Network is now interconnected with Bancnet and can also access the facilities of Megalink and Expressnet.

Recent advances in telecommunications, technology, software and financial networks enable the Nationlink Network to interconnect any rural bank in the country.

The Nationlink Network is operated by Infoserve, a banking and software technology provider. Its partners include PLDT, Microsoft, Intel, Diebold, BancNet, and Globe Telecoms. It has also recently forged partnerships with HP and IBM.

Nationlink is a "double bottom-line social enterprise;" a for-profit enterprise with a social mission. International organizations are working with Nationlink to bring the network to other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Samsung X510 handset available through Sun

SUN CELLULAR HAS A HOLIDAY TREAT —The Samsung X510.

This mobile phone is a triband clamshell with a VGA camera and surfing capabilities via WAP, a built-in handsfree speaker and can also share files with other phones through an infrared port.

Its postpaid subscription plan involves three phones and three separate lines, for a low monthly service fee of P999. Only one person needs to subscribe to get all three.

Sun Group Plan 999 subscribers will enjoy Sun-to-Sun non-stop calling and texting with its 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service and a bonus of 750 free text messages to other networks.

For more information, you can check the Sun website: www.suncellular.com or call the hotline: 3958000.

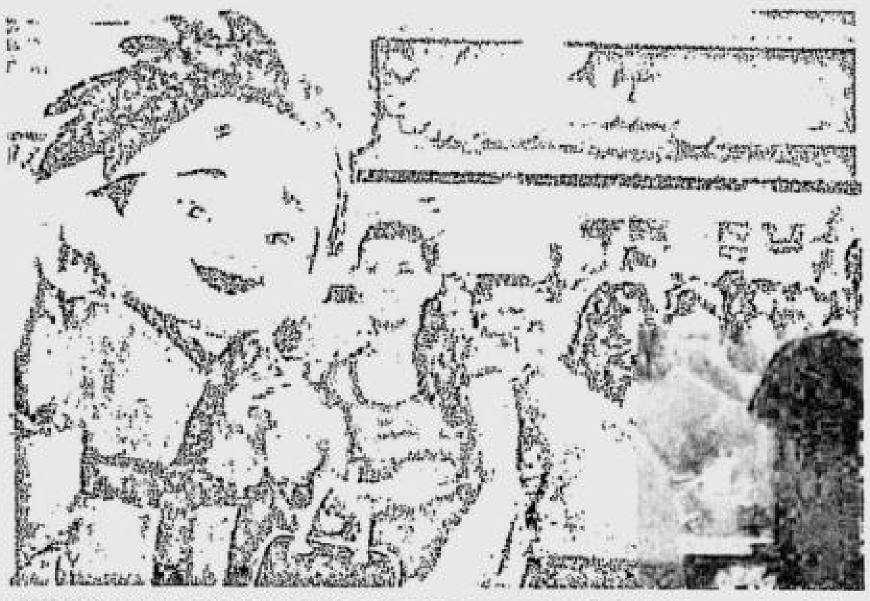
Snack food from Kansai, Japan now in Manila

TAKUYAKI IS A JAPANESE dumpling made of squid (taku) and vegetables (yaku). Introduced as a side dish or snack food in Kansai, Japan, the takuyaki has become popular and a byword among health-conscious Japanese, because of its nutrient content.

Chito Bogayong brought the takuyaki food first to General Santos City, and is now bringing it to other cities.

Seeing the great business potential of takuyaki in his hometown General Santos City, Bogayong improved on the production of his takuyaki to suit the Filipino taste. Thus, local vegetables like cabbage, carrots and pansit canton, were added and two different choices of sauces were made to go well with the "Filipino palate." All of these according to him were secrets of the distinct taste of his local "takuyaki." The end result of these series of trial and errors was an instant hit among his "kababayans" in General Santos City.

With an initial capital of P50,000, Bogayong set up his first food cart in a local mall. In about a year, he was able to add three more carts. Subsequently, he established "Takuyaki" presence in different parts of Mindanao and later on, in Cebu and Iloilo cities. Before he knew it, Bogayong was flooded by inquiries of franchising in Manila. At first he was not receptive to the idea but later on agreed.


CHIC Magpayo with takuyaki food cart and mascot at the SM Megamall outlet.

Chic Magpayo, a homemaker, was granted a license to operate the now named Kuya Chito's Takuyaki Japanese Balls. Magpayo currently manages the "Takuyaki" food cart in SM Megamall Foodcourt.

"It is a good thing that Bogayong opened the doors of franchising especially to us housewives, an opportunity to augment the income of our respective families and at the same time be productive citizens," said Magpayo.

Only recently, Chito and his wife, Junet, bagged the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) regional award for "Entrepreneur of the year" and "Product Innovator of the year."

National opens south of the metropolis

AFTER OVER 60 YEARS AND MORE THAN 90 branches, National Bookstore has reached a Laguna destination, the Paseo de Sta. Rosa Greenfield City.

Paseo De Sta. Rosa is the commercial center located in Greenfield City, a major development in south of Manila.

Mila G. Tenorio, area manager-south of National Bookstore, says that they opened a branch in Paseo de Sta. Rosa to make their store more accessible to the increasing population of Sta. Rosa.

Its markets consist primarily of professionals and employees from Laguna Technopark and students from nearby colleges.

National Bookstore is a one-stop shop for school and office supply needs—from greeting cards, photocopy services to book collections.

For information on Paseo De Sta. Rosa and Greenfield Development Corporation, please call 4208003 or (049) 5412845

Why branding is an investment and not an expense

From page B2-1

name, what it can do differently from others, or what it can do best, it is likely that consumers will not recall or remember anything about the product when the need to purchase the same arises. This is the reason why global brands like Coke, McDonald, Toyota, Honda, Nescafe, Sony, etc. continue to invest in marketing communications despite massive awareness. Global brands protect the space they have earned in the consumers' minds over time and through one generation of users to the next.

Brands are company assets. The worth of a brand is much larger than a commodity. The net worth of a successful brand is at the very least assessed over the period or years that it is likely to generate purchases and sustained customer loyalty. Thus, the net worth of companies with more than one successful brand has much greater value over companies with several commodity or unknown products or services in its roster.

Why companies fail to brand

People at the top fail to walk the talk of branding. Branding is no easy task. It requires a culture that stems from the top where brands are treated as assets and not as expense items.

Table of Net worth of the world's 100 Most Valuable Brands

2007 Rank	Brand	Country of Origin	Brand value in US$B
1	Coca Cola	US	65.32
2	Microsoft	US	58.70
3	IBM	US	52.09
4	GE	US	51.56
5	Nokia	Finland	33.69
6	Toyota	Japan	32.07
7	Intel	US	30.85
8	McDonald	US	29.39
9	Disney	US	29.21
10	Mercedes Benz	Germany	23.56

SOURCE: INTERBRAND 2007

> Companies fail to pursue branding due to unhappy branding experiences

The American Marketing Association has updated its definition of brands as a set of values implied by a product, service or experience and is not only a symbol or signifier, which is usually an artifact such as a logo or logotype.

This means that when a marketer has branded a product or service as premium in its category and intended for the affluent, this should not be mere rhetoric. The company must provide the support infrastructure designed to serve the needs of those with high disposable income. Because affluent products or service demand exclusivity of use by a certain segment of the market who is willing to pay the price, all other services wanted by this discriminating target market must be met by the company.

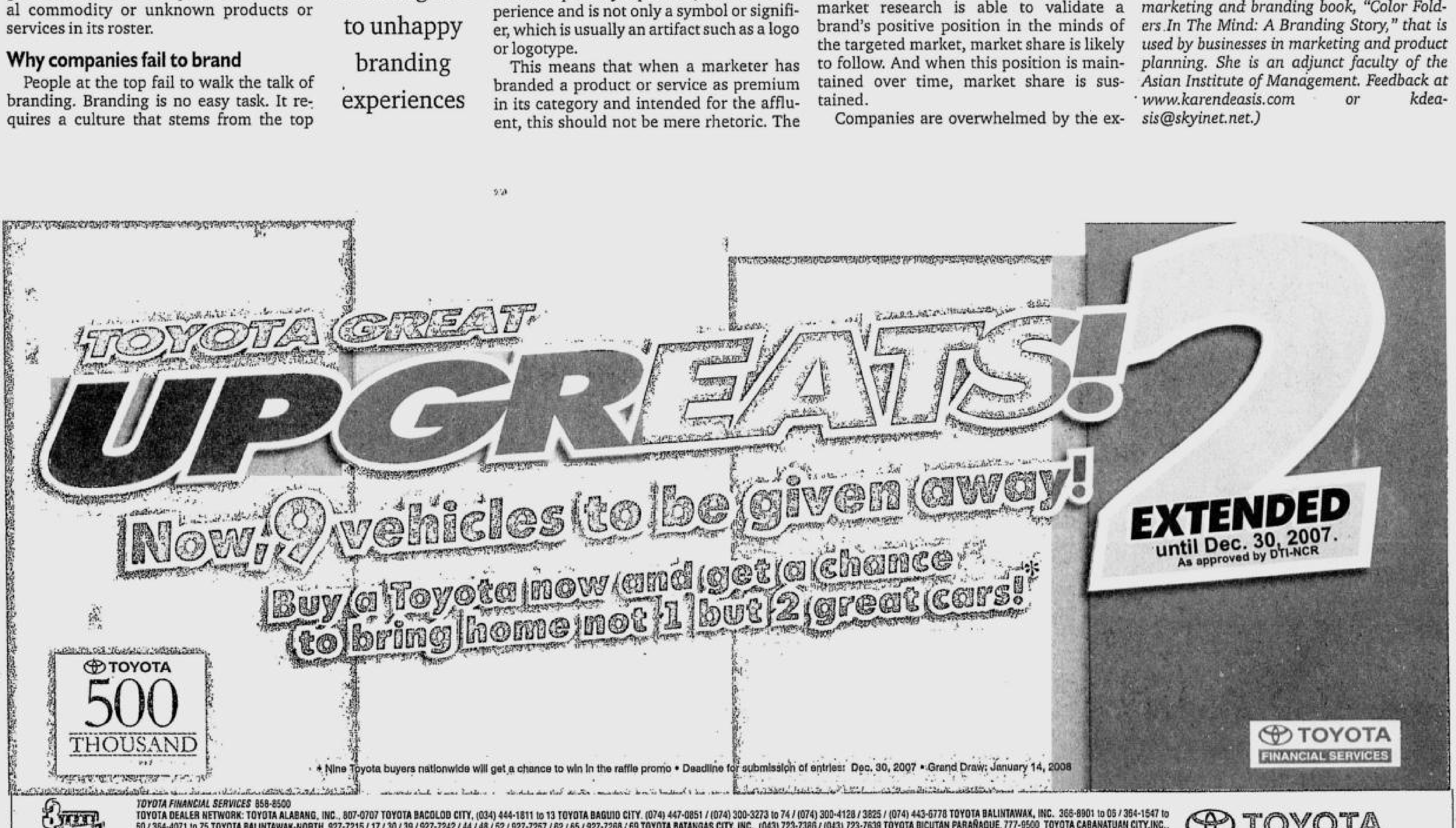
Branding is not immediately equated to sales. Branding is a strategic mindset, process and culture. It is not a sales activity. It is the summation of the value that consumers perceive about a product or service. To establish this value and perception, companies need to invest in marketing and branding efforts and effective marketing communications to solidify the brand's space in the minds of the consumers.

The success of the branding exercise is measured through market research. When market research is able to validate a brand's positive position in the minds of the targeted market, market share is likely to follow. And when this position is maintained over time, market share is sustained.

Companies are overwhelmed by the expense behind brand building. Most investments are not cheap but because it is an investment, greater returns are expected in the future. If the branding exercise is effective and efficient, then the company is not wasting resources.

Burned by inefficiency. A good number of companies fail to pursue long-term branding due to previous unhappy branding experiences. This usually happens when branding is left solely to the advertising, PR and marketing communications companies and to the inefficient hands of pseudo-marketers. Branding is the company and the marketers' accountability, not the ad agencies'. Branding is too big an investment to be left to a third party who is not fully privy to the vision, mission, directions, operations and finances of the client organization.

(The writer is the author of the bestselling marketing and branding book, "Color Folders In The Mind: A Branding Story," that is used by businesses in marketing and product planning. She is an adjunct faculty of the Asian Institute of Management. Feedback at www.karendeasis.com or kdeasis@skyinet.net.)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TOYOTA moving forward

Happy Communications first to run on 4G technology

PASCUA

HAPPY COMMUNICATIONS INC. (HCI), the latest and only IT and communications company running on a 4G technological platform, has created a growing menu of better and more powerful wireless services for small, medium and large enterprises.

HCI chair Ricardo Pascua, former Metro Pacific Corporation president and chief executive officer, said this breakthrough technology paved the way for cutting edge product offerings such as unmatched wireless broadband packages for enterprises of various sizes, wireless local loop services and IP-PBX telephone service for multibranch firms, hosted solutions for contact centers, medical transcription companies. "Our menu of services is poised to expand even further as we have more in the pipeline to be rolled out next year," Pascua said of 4G's vast capabilities.

The term 4G is used broadly in pertaining to the latest, most advanced platform for wireless services with unsurpassed clarity and speed of "triple play" (voice, data, video).

Thus, Happy Wireless Broadband provides corporate subscribers with fast and easy internet connection at break-neck speed but at more affordable rates.

Similarly, Happy Connect, the company's wireless local loop service gives corporate subscribers interconnectivity across Metro Manila, enabling them to communicate with their branches using VoIP-enabled devices such as laptops, PDAs, and WiFi-enabled phones.

On the other hand, the IP PBX service offers such features as voicemail, conference bridging, call queuing, call details records, auto-attendant, directory listing, interactive voice response, music on hold, call forward, caller ID, parking, support of Voice over Internet Protocols (VoIP), and support for various telephony protocols, among many others.

HCI emerged as an IT and communications firm in 2006 when it signed a partnership agreement with Teodoro N. Romasanta Inc. (TNR Telecoms), which has a legislative franchise to establish, maintain and operate radio stations for broadcasting, transmission and reception of wireless messages.

Since then, HCI has emerged as a next generation communications company that now provides high-speed wireless broadband communication services at more affordable rates.

"Being the first to run on 4G technology, HCI enjoys the distinction of operating on a truly wireless platform and having unparalleled technical expertise in wireless communication, strategic business integration, operational solutions, and managed security services, all in the name of true mobility and uninterrupted connectivity," said HCI chief marketing officer John Marvin Cruz.

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**** 50% DP, 60 months, Fortuner 4x2 G 2.7 Gas A/T

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5640 Series of 2007.

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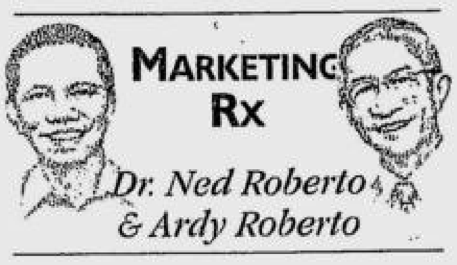
BUSINESS Friday

'Can branded succeed over generics?'



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: THERE MUST BE MORE TO THE marketing of generics than what has been said. We're concerned with generics because it has been particularly successful among the Class D consumer segment where we compete in. Can you cite an example where a branded product won over a generic product? What are the key factors that should be considered for branded products to succeed over generics?

A: Answering your second question will also answer your first. So we'll deal with your second question.

There are several factors to consider. Let's focus on the two that are the most strategic.

The very first one is the assumption in your question that branded is in competition with generics. Just because you witnessed, for example, a generic product experiencing increased sales while your brand's sales curve is flattening or even showing signs of falling, does not mean your brand's competitor is the generic. That's looking at what's happening from your end as marketer. That's of course not wrong. But it's also only partly right.

So you need to look at the other part of what's right. That's to also look at things from the consumers' end and the different segments they represent when they buy the generic versus the branded.

Switching behavior

First of all, if the consumer we're talking about was your brand's consumer, then her behavior is a switching behavior. If you ask her why, you'll learn that it's because the generic was actually the product that serves her primary need for low price while quality is secondary. She was with your brand because the generic wasn't available yet or she didn't know yet it was there. This same priority value orientation is what's behind the motivation of the other and greater number of consumers making up the generics market segment. The idea is simple: the generic market segment is a different market. The products participating in this market are serving a completely different set of consumer priority needs.

So this consumer from your brand switched market segment. You interpreted this as switching product. Switching segment and switching product has a subtle but strategic difference that is worth thinking about and learning. The consumer we're talking about switched from being in a premium (branded) price segment to being in an economy (generic) price segment. It just so happened that there were two different products there, different in that yours is in the premium segment while the "competitor's" is in the economy segment. This is what is meant by thinking of what's going on from how consumers see them and how they respond to them.

What's the subtle and strategic difference here? Consider this. Suppose you have your own generic product in the economy segment. In this case, any consumer in the premium price segment wishing to switch to the economy has two options: to switch to your own generic, or to the other "competitor" generic. So you can actually still own that switching consumer by having and offering your own generic product.

'Sali na' in both segments!

This is your most strategic consideration in resolving the issue you raised regarding generics. It's not so much a case of how the branded can win or succeed versus the generic. It's more a case of how to win and succeed in the premium branded price segment as well as in the economy generic price segment. What we're saying is that to win and succeed in both, you ought to participate in both segments.

First, maintain your competitive position in the premium segment versus other premium brands.

Second, enter and participate with your own generic in the economy segment versus other generic products. This way you cannot only catch those consumers of your brand switching to the economy segment but also compete and share in the economy market segment against the other generic competitors.

While generics have penetrated many product categories including the FMCGs (fast moving consumer goods), we're most often asked your questions by companies in the pharmaceutical industry. It's in this industry that we now like to turn to your first question but rephrased along the logic of our foregoing presentation: "Can you cite an example where a branded product won in its premium (branded) price market segment while at the same time winning in the economy generic price market segment as well?"

Be market-centric

The known and most popular case is Unilab, specifically, its ethical prescription branded products and its generic products. Its successful ethical prescription brands are with its 11 ethical companies (like Westmont, Biomedis, UAP, Medichem, Therapharma, etc.). Its successful generics are with its generics company, namely, RiteMed. For the same molecule (e.g., co-amoxiclav for antibiotic, statin for anticholesterol etc.), there is a branded in one or two of the ethical companies as well as a generic in RiteMed. Unilab is one of the first pharma companies in the country to think consumer and market more than thinking marketer in its marketing strategic planning and execution. This market-centric orientation has contributed in no small way to its continuing phenomenal success.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net. God bless!

Trade your waste for cash this Saturday

REMOVE the lids from plastic bottles as they are made from different types of plastic.

IT'S R-DAY OR RECYCLING MARKET DAY on Saturday, Dec. 8 at all SM Supermalls.

After a series of successful waste market fairs that revealed how environmentally conscious many Filipinos had become, all 30 SM Supermalls nationwide will again become trading places for goods like can be recycled. This will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the mall's parking lots.

Recycling is turning waste materials into valuable resources

Just like in the previous waste market fairs, shoppers can trade their traditional and nontraditional waste items into cash at the recycling market day. Traditional waste items include paper, plastic, PET bottles, tin cans, metal and cartons, while nontraditional wastes include ink cartridges, electronic wastes, computer printers, and appliances.

Participating recyclers are HMR for E-waste; Polytrader/Linis Ganda for plastic wastes; Kilus/Tipco/Linis Ganda for papers; PRI for used lead acid batteries and YGARC for ink cartridges. Other buyers from other malls are those local garbage haulers of traditional wastes.

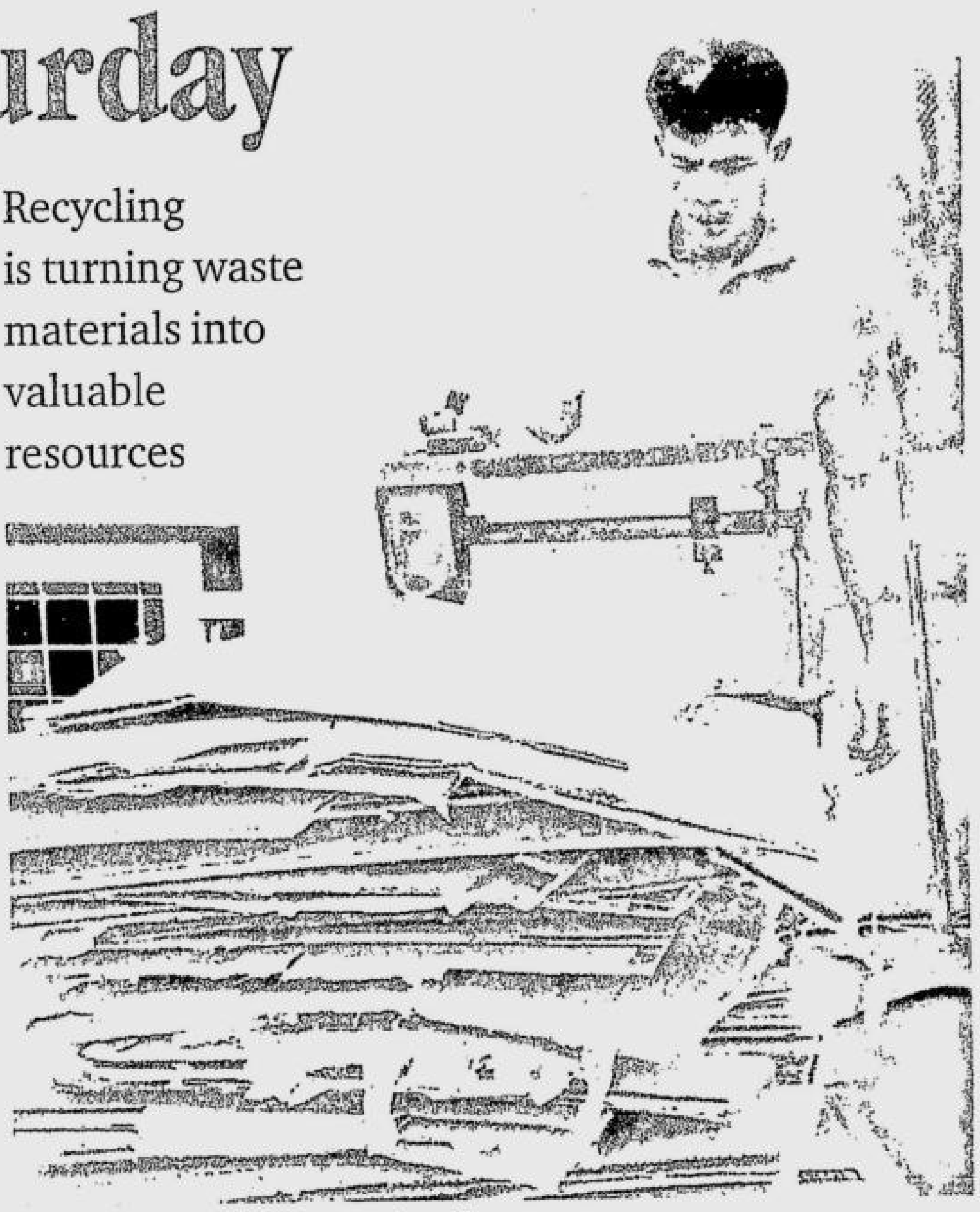
In partnership of the SM Supermalls with the National Solid Waste Management Committee, Philippine Business for the Environment, Cenro Pasig, EPWD-QC, and various local government units, the recycling market day will also feature activities like storytelling sessions. In some SM malls, there will be briefings about the freedom tree project. Freedom trees are decorative and functional prison products painstakingly handcrafted from PET and other plastic beverages.

Recycling means turning materials that would be otherwise become waste into valuable resources.

Here are some tips on how to recycle from the SM Supermalls:

- Recycle any laser/ink printer cartridges.
- Take aluminum foil, old phone books, glass bottles and jam jars to the recycling market day.
- Compost vegetable peelings, cut flowers, shredded newspaper, and grass cuttings. Composting is nature's way of recycling organic waste into new soil, which can be used in vegetable and flower gardens, landscaping, and many other applications.
- Encourage your friends and family to get involved in recycling at home, at school and in the workplace.
- Support local recycling efforts.

But why recycle? More than just the opportunity to clean your closets, you'll be amazed at its environmental, economic and social advantages.

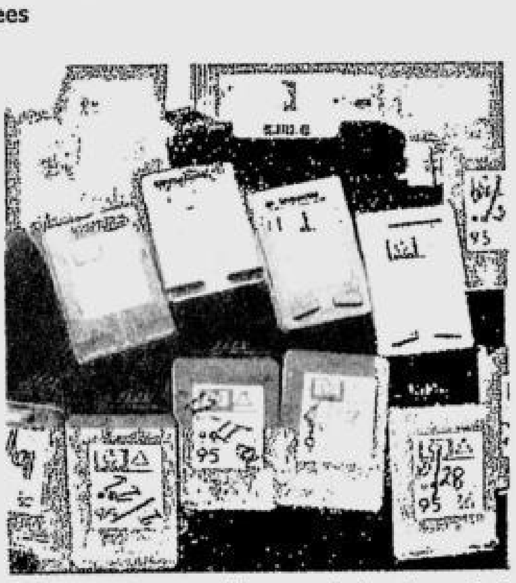


RECYCLING one ton of paper saves about 17 trees

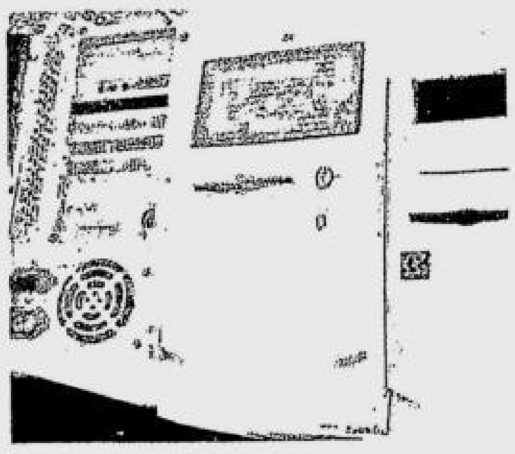
- Recycling generates civic pride and environmental awareness.
- Recycling helps prevent environmental pollution.
- Recycling saves natural resources.
- Recycling conserves raw materials used in industry.
- Making products from recycled ingredients often uses much less energy than producing the same product from raw materials.
- Recycling reduces the amount of material dumped in landfill sites and helps our waste disposal problems.
- Goods are used productively and prevented from becoming litter and garbage.

The recycling market fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007 at the open parking areas of all SM Supermalls.

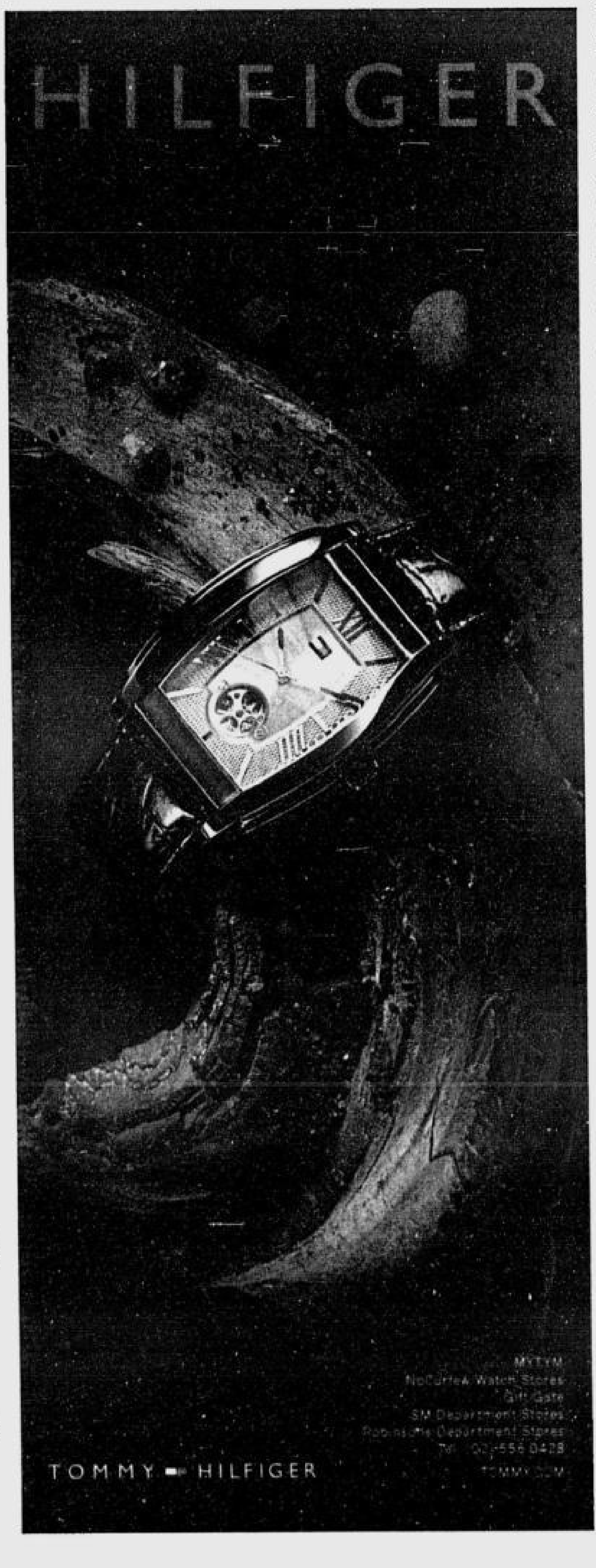
WHAT a lovely pair of slippers made from recycled tetra pack



USED cartridges are either recycled or disposed of



CPU's and other computer parts traded in the fair



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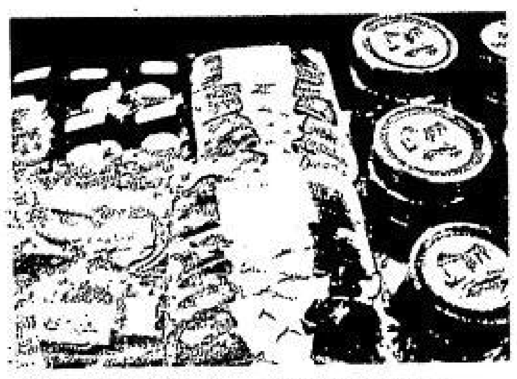
BUSINESS Friday

In NGO showcase, poor places' produce becomes the attraction


A SAMPLE of food products from Bohol

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT MEMBERS of nongovernment organizations only get to wave placards and shout slogans during protest rallies need to think again.

The members do much more than take to the streets, like helping the poor find alternative sources of livelihood.

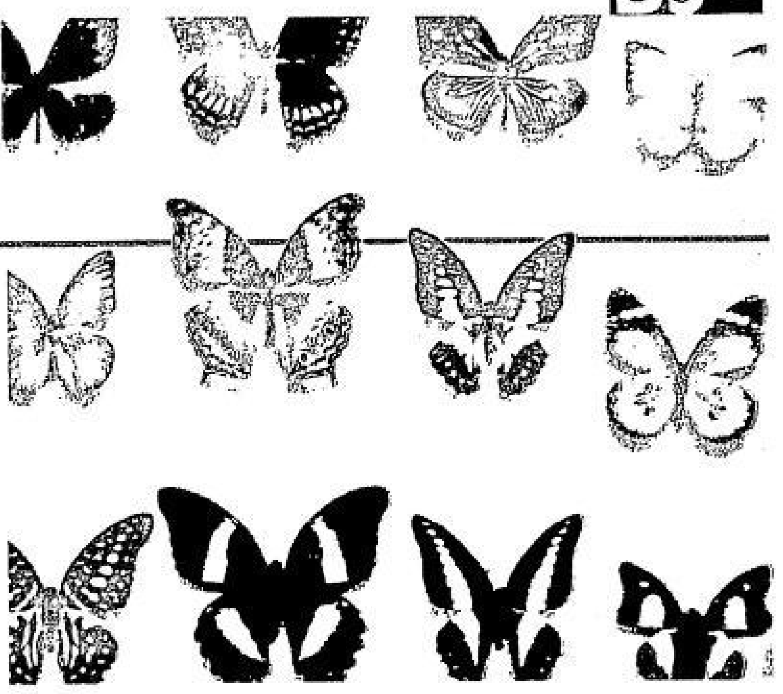
They generally do this by organizing the communities, providing residents with a new skill or upgrading the ones they already have, extending capital if the people need it and finding markets for their produce.

The concrete results of these efforts were showcased this week during the recently concluded Social Development Week, an annual event hosted by the Caucus of Development NGO Networks in partnership with the Peace and Equity Foundation Inc.

The sixth SD week, with the theme "Kasali Ka, Sumali Ka," was highlighted by a trade fair at the Glorietta activity center in Makati City where Code NGO and PEF partners had the chance to showcase their goods, products and services to the big Metro Manila market.

The most popular booths during the four-day fair were those of the Baguio-based Cordillera Network of Development NGOs and POs (Cordnet) and the Partnership and Access Center (PAC)-Albay Inc.

IN NGO/ B3-3


MARINDUQUE butterflies come to the city.

PHOTOS BY JEROME DUMLAO

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

The Agora: A powerhouse gathering like no other

DESPITE THE RECENT POLITICAL disturbance in the Makati area, the country's marketing powerhouses still pushed through in their gathering to witness the conferment of the industry's most prestigious recognition of excellence and competence, the Agora Awards.

Held at the main ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental, the event, organized by the Philippine Marketing Association, the country's premier marketing organization, saw the passing of the torch to the new set of names that shall go down in Philippine marketing history as the recipients of the most illustrious award in the field of marketing.

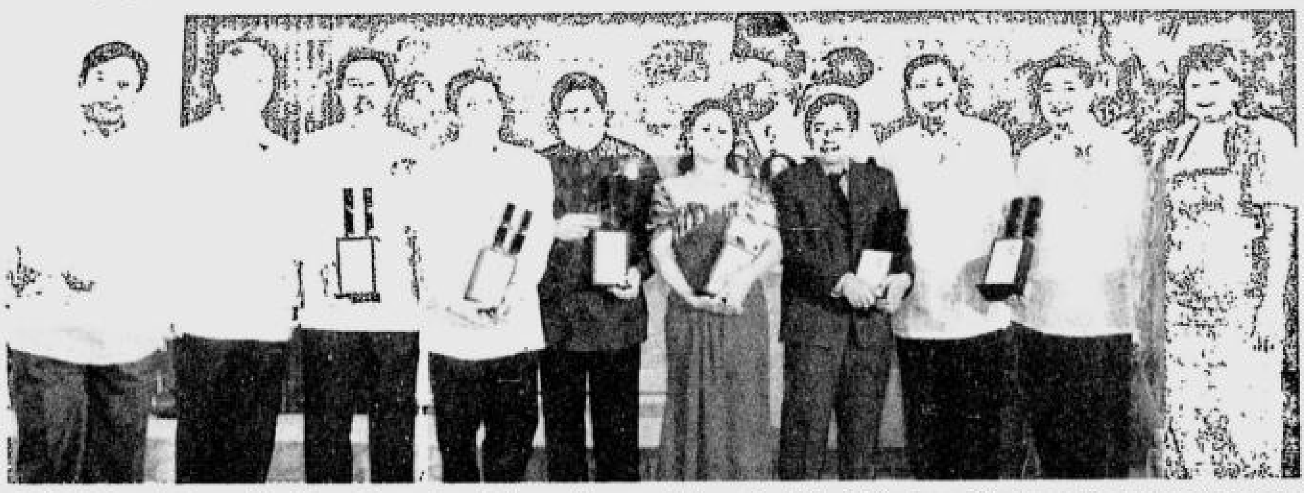
Getting high regards of this year's equally distinguished judges are Perpetuo De Claro of Wyeth Philippines Inc for his outstanding achievement in marketing management; Dr. Justino Arboleda of Coco Technologies Corp for his Outstanding Achievement in Export Marketing; Rosanna Llenado of Ahead Learning Systems Inc, for her outstanding achievement in entrepreneurship, small scale; Sylvia Concepcion of the University of the Philippines for her Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education; Dennis Mendiola of Chikka Asia Inc, for his outstanding achievement in entrepreneurship-medium scale; Ramon Vergel de Dios of Shell Oil Products-United States for Asia Pacific Marketing Excellence; Ayala Foundation Inc for its Outstanding Achievement in Advocacy Marketing; and Universal Robina Corp for Marketing Company of the Year.

Needless to say, these individuals and companies proved to be the movers and shakers of the marketing industry with their achievements. With all their milestones combined, they have concretized the claim that the field of marketing remains an invaluable aspect in the upward progression of our country's economic status.

A flagship project of the Philippine Marketing Association, this annual event once more gave remarkable opportunities to bring together the country's top professional marketing practitioners and educators, as well as to provide a pleasant occasion for them to acknowledge the outstanding achievements in marketing practices of their colleagues.

"More than a venue for commemorating Filipino greatness, the Agora Awards is an annual affair that we at the Philippine Marketing Association have come to look forward to in our respective calendars," Ricky Alegre, PMA president said. "But more than the honor of being conferred such recognition, and perhaps even beyond the glitz and glamour that this night may represent, it is Agora Awards' even more catalyzed credibility and integrity that we are now celebrating."

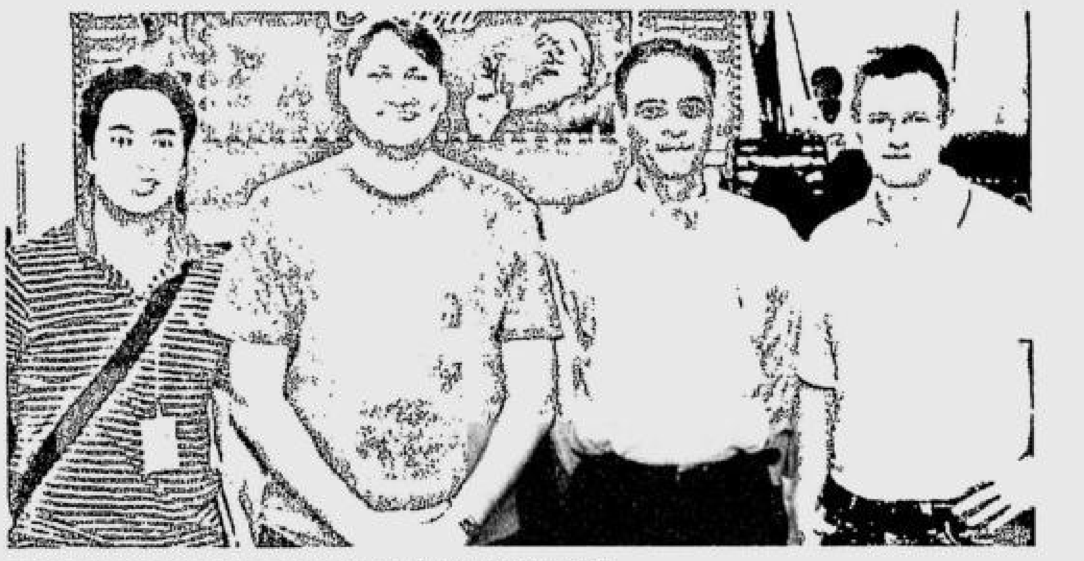
Since its establishment in 1979, the Agora Awards has ceaselessly posed the challenge for Filipino marketing professionals to exemplify the performance that would best represent the country in the competitive global arena.



SHOWN, from left, are Jojo Ajero, Agora Awards' overall chair; Ricky Alegre, PMA president; Guillermo Luz of the Ayala Foundation; Dennis Mendiola, president of Chikka Asia Inc; Perpetuo de Claro, president and general manager of Wyeth Philippines; Dr. Sylvia Concepcion, professor 2 of the University of the Philippines-Mindanao; Dr. Justino Arboleda of Coco Technologies Corp; Pet Bautista, general manager of Universal Robina Corp; Lance Gokongwei, president of Universal Robina Corp; and Erly de Guzman, PMA director for Agora Awards.

RACHEL ANNE WOLFE, AMBASSADRESS OF MYWORLD

Shown in the recent memorandum of agreement signing for Rachel Anne Wolfe as creative director and ambassadress of MyWORLD Phone are, from left, Edward Balontong, COO, Mel Velarde, CEO, and Armand de Castro, VP for marketing.



COKE ROLLS OUT CHRISTMAS CARAVAN

Fresh from the success of the 'YES!' and 'Bonding sa Buhay Coke Buksan Mo' campaigns, Coca-Cola has concocted yet another exciting treat for consumers this holiday season. Coke started rolling out the Christmas Caravan Barangay Activation to barangays in the Greater Manila Area (GMA) Nov 3, with over 200 barangays to be visited for 8 weekends until Dec. 23. The Christmas Caravan event is highlighted by the following activities: the 'Coca-Cola Ride to Fame', a dance and singing contest; the 'Make a Wish' raffle contest, and the 'Coca-Cola Wish Booth'. Shown are (from left) Coca-Cola Export Corp's Red Israel, market development manager-GMA, Sean Cunial, operations director, Kandy Anand, president, and Luis Galguera, technical director.

Ateneo de Manila grand alumni homecoming set Dec. 8

ON DEC. 8, THE BLUEST OF THE BLUE WILL gather to be one once again. It will be the time to come home to the nest and relive all that is blue in you. Come to the 2007 Ateneo de Manila Grand Alumni Homecoming, "Flying the Highest High! Ang Sarap Maging Atenista!" on Dec. 8, 6 p.m. at the Ateneo de Manila High School Covered Courts. There will be an overflowing of drinks, food, party music and good old Ateneo memories during this true-blue evening! See you there! One big fight! For inquiries and reservations, call Beth Nunez at 561-9494, 0928-5003986, or e-mail goblueahs82@yahoo.com.

What you should know about Candidiasis

CANDIDIASIS IS AN ABNORMAL MICROBIAL colonization of the intestine where the change in the relationship or quantity of intestinal microbes is pathological. In other words, the environment in your intestines has become the slum of your body. Many patients have tried hard to get rid of Candida because it interferes with the normal functioning of the immune system. A yeast that normally lives in harmony in your body, Candida albicans can begin to overgrow following antibiotic therapy. Chronic candidiasis such as this can produce digestive disturbances, fatigue and allergies among other symptoms. Because they promote a healthy intestinal environment, Probiotics can help to halt Candida overgrowth. Using antibiotics only when truly necessary will also help you avoid the problem of candida infection.

Candida is a common cause of vaginal infection in adolescent girls, especially when the normal populations of the bacteria Lactobacilli have been reduced due to antibiotic use, allowing the overgrowth of Candida. Candidiasis in the vagina results in itching, burning, soreness, and a thick, white vaginal discharge. Millions of women suffer each year from vaginal yeast overgrowth-an irritating condition known as vaginitis (vaginal thrush). Almost all teenage and adult females all over the world are plagued with vaginitis and its itchy, messy, discharge at least once in their lives. Many of these women will continue to suffer with vaginal infections for a period of years. Although prescription drug and over-the-counter preparations are on the market today, these products provide symptomatic relief, but seldom get to the cause of the problem.

It is important to maintain optimal levels of beneficial bacteria in the vaginal canal to maintain health and comfort. Take Protexin with seven lacto and Bifido Strains to maintain the acid ph -5-6 needed by the vaginal canal and control the spread of yeast and various fungal infections in the vaginal canal by using powerful strains of L. acidophilus to produce a "user friendly" form of Probiotics. You are more likely to control vaginitis and maintain optimal vaginal comfort. So, let these friendly bacteria get to work for you. Once yeast overgrowth has been controlled with Probiotics with L. acidophilus bacteria, vaginal inflammation will subside over time.

For pregnant women, Protexin Bance capsule is recommended for oral administration one to two capsules before delivery and 30 days after delivery. After an antibiotic or antifungal therapy, Protexin Balance is recommended at one to two capsules for 10 to 15 days. For inquiries, call Prebiotech Healthcare Philippines at 809-9848, or log on to www.protexin.com (e-mail info@prebiotech.com). Protexin is available in Mercury and Manson Drug outlets nationwide.

Financial flexibility with enhanced PSBank Money Card

PSBank introduced more innovative features, more financial flexibility, as well as day and night cash access to its PSBank Money Card. The collateral-free personal loan is considered today's most reliable cash partner because of its easy accessibility via any of PSBank, Metrobank and BancNet ATMs.

PSBank president Pascual Garcia III emphasized that the enhanced Money Card now has the power of a standby revolving credit line and a term loan facility in just one card. For the term loan, clients can choose from 3, 6, 12, 24 and 36 months easy payment terms and this can be availed via PSBank ATMs. The loan can be used anytime, anywhere. It is ideal for those last-minute or unexpected need for cash. The new PSBank Money Card also comes with a personal check for an approved credit line of P50,000 and above.

Clients can enjoy flexible payment options through any PSBank, Metrobank or BancNet ATMs. They can also pay through automatic debit arrangement with PSBank deposit accounts. Clients can settle their dues at any of the 163 PSBank branches nationwide or use their enrolled account in the PSBank remote banking facility at www.psbank.com.ph.

The loan starts at P20,000 and may go as high as P250,000. It has a minimum monthly repayment scheme of P500 or just five percent of the monthly outstanding balance. Another major benefit to cardholders, the paid amount immediately becomes part of the available credit line.

PSBank also provides fast turn-around time for all Money Card applications. Applicants will receive updates on their loan application via SMS. For more information, call the Money Card hotline at 845-8888, e-mail info@psbank.com.ph, or the personal loans division at 885-8284, 885-8250, 885-8208 locals 8517-18, 8975, 8527; or visit any PSBank branch nationwide.

ABS-CBN WINS SIX GOLD QUILLS FOR OUTSTANDING PR PROGRAMS

ABS-CBN wins six Philippine Gold Quill Awards for its outstanding PR programs, namely the 'Boto Mo iPatrol Mo' election campaign, Pinoy Media Congress, Kapamilya Services, 'Kapitan' book and its 2007 Executive Planner. Shown are (from left) Jan Kristoffer Enriquez, Camille Labayen, Edgardo Wenceslao, Lorelie Dionisio, corporate communications head Bong Osorio, Jennifer Lapis, Katherine Solis, Nicholson Bacay, Ryan Ramos, Cristina Tan and Leonel Velarde.

ACER DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Acer treated its loyal patrons to an exclusive digital photography workshop with reputable photographer Patrick Uy at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Makati via its 'Freedom of Expression' promo. Lucky buyers of Acer projectors and LCDs were awarded slots to the exclusive workshop, a half-day event which gave participants the opportunity to learn the latest trends and techniques in digital photography from the acknowledged photography guru. Aside from the seminar slots, customers also brought home free tripod projector screens for every Acer projector purchase. Indeed, it was a once-in-a-lifetime treat only Acer could give. Shown (from left) are Agnes Espino, marketing manager, Acer Philippines; Patrick Uy; and Lalaine Mesina of Brother.

MR AND MS GIST 2007 CROWNED IN 'GREEN-THEMED' FOUNDATION CELEBRATION

Gateways Institute of Science and Technology (GIST) held a week-long celebration of its 13th foundation anniversary Oct. 18 to 26 with the theme 'Rejuvenation Through Green World' in adherence to the Clean and Green program of the Philippines. The school, which has been identified by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority as one of the Top 5 private school candidates for Center of Excellence, is primarily concerned with the development of skills, talents and development of its students' personalities. The highlight of the school's celebration was the Mr. and Ms. GIST 2007 pageant held at the Pasig City Convention Center Oct 26. Cindrey Balignasay, a 2nd year Computer Technician student from Cogeo, was deemed Mr. GIST 2007. Rowena Arcenal, 1st year Computer Secretarial student from Pasig, was crowned Ms. GIST 2007. The pageant was graced by the presence of Nitz del Rosario of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Dr. Jesus Lim of Antipolo Medical and Dental Clinic, Rolly Wagan of Nutrilicious, Rene Macalintal of Gano Excel Philippines and Rex Pineda of GMA 7. GIST has branches in Cogeo, Antipolo City and Pasig City. For inquiries, call 640-0422/647-6952.

Fair trade finds place in rarefied world of luxury goods

PARIS—FAIR TRADE AND GREEN-friendly goods are becoming increasingly popular with lovers of luxury, with distinctive products as much as politics driving demand, according to French fashion and consumer experts.

"People are not buying fair trade to help the planet," said Eric Fouquier, who heads the Thema agency which specializes in new "alternative" consumption patterns.

"Luxury items simply have become industrial and are now so common that consumers are seeking goods that are out of the ordinary." His views echo others who recently discussed the growing appetite of consumers for products that respect global environmental concerns on a panel at Paris Fashion Group, a forum of fashion industry specialists.

Young French entrepreneur Francois Morillon, whose Veja organic sports shoe brand made of cotton and rubber from Brazil, is making waves in top boutiques, also reckoned politics was far from being the leading factor in his success story.

"Apart from a small number of activists, people don't buy for social or environmental reasons but because they like the product," he said of his 2003 business that went from nothing to 45,000 pairs of shoes a season, made in collaboration with Brazilian co-ops.

"We set up our brand because we want to favor change," he said, "but it's the exceptional quality of a product, the fact that it's original that sets it apart, that makes it a luxury good." It was like a Hermes handbag, he said, where the owner knew exactly how it was made.

But Isabelle Laville, whose consultancy Utopies specializes in fair trade practices, said consumption patterns had changed over the past 12 to 18 months with social and environmental concerns becoming part and parcel of the luxury sector.

Celebrities such as George Clooney and Leonard DiCaprio, or rock star Bono, had also favored sustainable development by speaking out for ethical causes, she added.

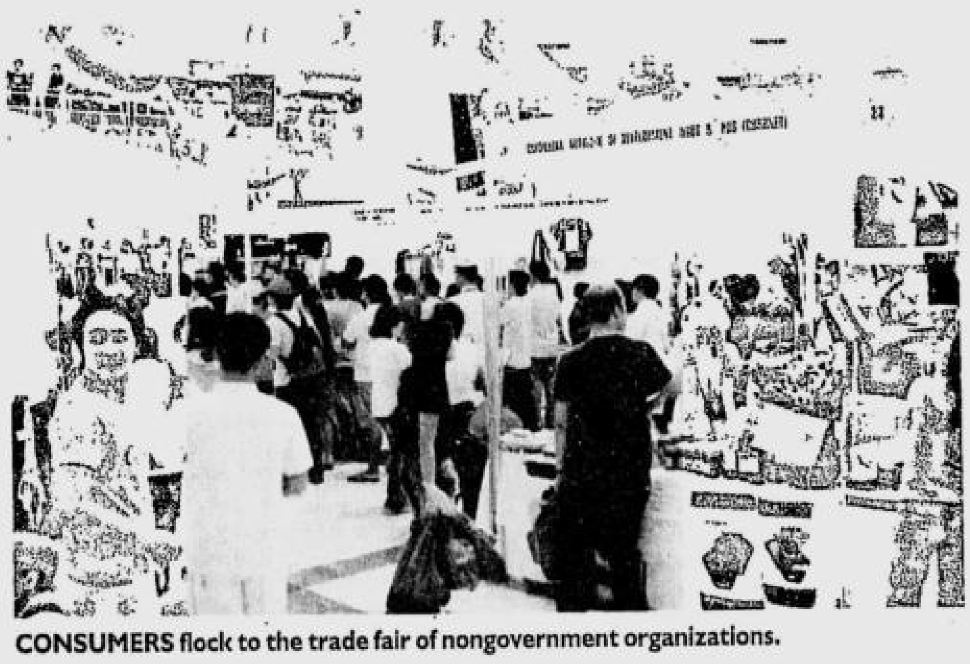
"Customer demand is changing," said Sylvie Benard, the head of environment for the world's biggest luxury conglomerate LVMH. "Our customers today are as demanding about luxury as they are about respecting the environment." Benard said LVMH, which owns Moet-Hennessy drinks, Louis Vuitton leather goods and a range of perfume and fashion brands, had been striving for the past 15 years to bolster its green credentials by reducing waste and carefully sourcing animal hides for its top-end leathers.

Moet et Chandon champagnes had halved water consumption over six years while the flagship Vuitton store on Paris' Champs Elysees now uses 60 percent less electricity than others after revamping its lighting system.

The company also aimed to help its partners in emerging nations such as Vietnam or Burkina Faso—which supply ingredients for perfumes and cosmetics—to develop viable economic projects, she said.

"We don't communicate about what we're doing," she added. "To be extravagant out front you need to be impeccable out the back."

AFP



CONSUMERS flock to the trade fair of nongovernment organizations.

In NGO showcase ...

From page B3-1

based in Legazpi City.

Cordnet sold food items, accessories and apparel featuring the weaves and patterns that the Cordillera people are famous for.

PAC Albay, on the other hand, brought along abaca goods—such as bags, slippers and home décor—from the typhoon-hit province.

Also popular were the accessories and home products with butterfly accents produced by the Isla de Bila-bila Association of Boac, Marinduque; and the *tikog* items produced by the bahandi Producers Association of Eastern Visayas.

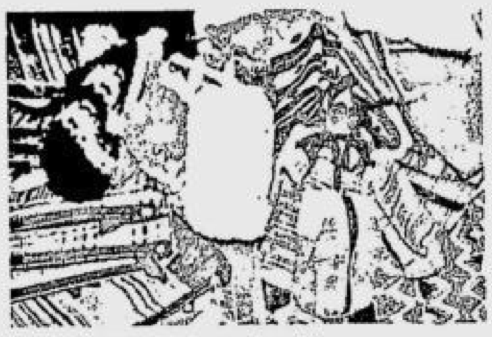
Likewise enjoying brisk sales were the Bol-anon United Sectors Working for the Advancement of Community Concerns, which sold food items from Bohol, and Upland Marketing Foundation Inc., which is marketing organic food items from different provinces.

There was also a long line at the booth of the Visually Impaired Brotherhood for Excellent Services (VIBES) Inc., where guests got to sample the spa services of blind masseurs.

Other groups that took part in the trade fair were the Oriental Mindoro NGO/Po Network, Palanan Wilderness Development Cooperative, Palawan NGO Network Inc.-Provincial Access Center, Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies Inc., Philippine Business for Social Progress, Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas, Provincial Alliance of NGOs and Pos for Development, Punla sa Tao Foundation Inc., Antique Development Foundation Inc., Bote Central, Coalition of Social Development Organizations in South Cotabato, Fundacion Santiago, Gerry Roxas Foundation, Ibon Foundation Inc. Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development in Negros and the National Pharmaceutical Foundation.

These groups hope that more private traders and consumers will be interested in the products, which could eventually lead to long-term business partnerships that will benefit the poor who need all the help they can get.

NOVEL art pieces from Negros



ACCESSORIES from Cordillera

BAGS from Albay

WOOD sculptures from the Cordillera

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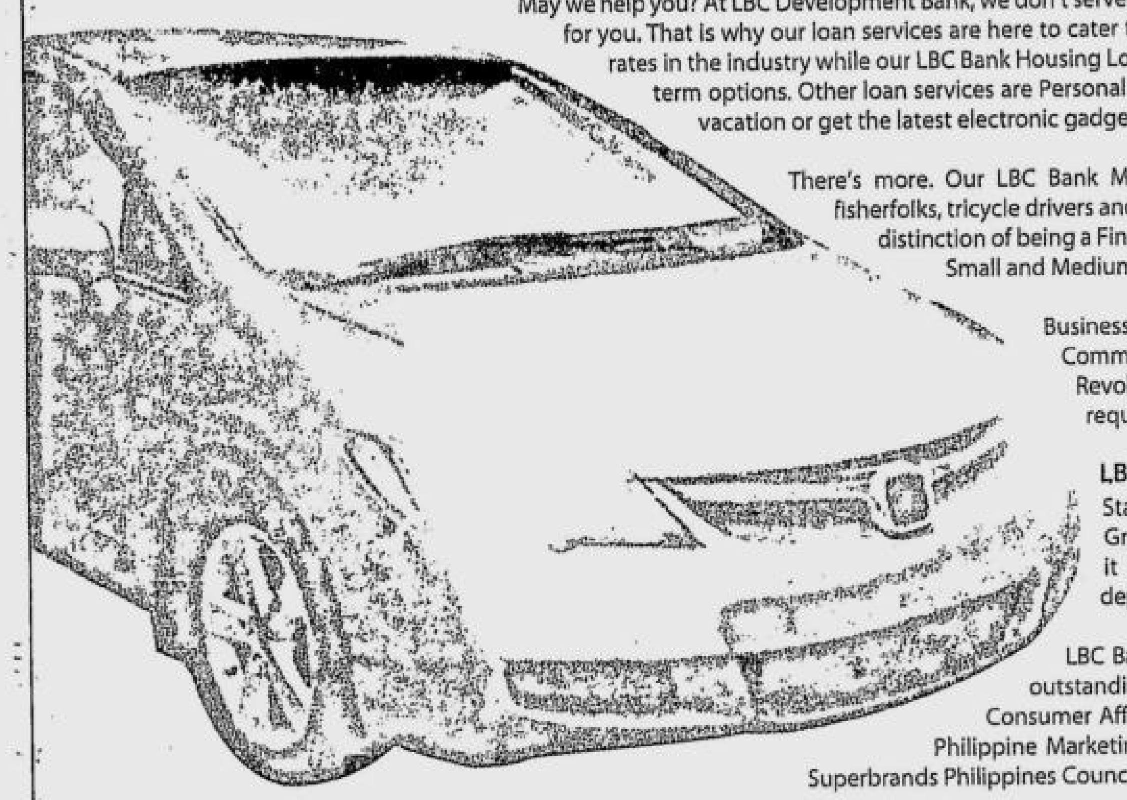

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White shrimp culture gets big boost

Radio program gives free training

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—THE CULTURE OF THE Pacific white shrimp (*P. vannamei*), once raised illegally in the Philippines, is expected to become extensive with the training of 320 fishermen on the culture of this shrimp variety.

The fishermen were trained on the culture, disease management and marketing of the species through the "Fisheries School on Air" that was aired by radio station dzMM from July 6 to September this year.

They graduated from the program on Nov. 16 at the Asian Fisheries Academy at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Research Center here.

The program was aimed at informing the public about the technology on its culture, increasing fishermen's profits and pushing the industry in the country. Fishery experts and vannamei growers served as resource persons.

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development, Santeh Feeds Corp., ABS-CBN Foundation and the Philippine Foundation of Rural Broadcasters sponsored the program.

Dr. Westly Rosario, BFAR center chief and a resource person of the school on air, said vannamei is expected to be one of the top aquaculture commodities in the country in the next five years.

"The improvement of the technology is fast and many fishermen are interested in the culture of vannamei. As of now, Zambales produces 500 to 600 metric tons," he said.

He asked vannamei raisers to register their production with fishery authorities so that they can be helped with modern technologies and in the prevention of diseases.

Rosario said the Department of Agriculture would produce vannamei breeders to cater to the needs of those involved in its production.

"We will continue the research and development of vannamei because we can see its potential. It is a high value commodity and whatever products from it will also be high value," he said.

Phillip Ong, president of Santeh Feeds Corp., said 90 percent of tiger prawn growers in the country have shifted to vannamei.

He said the country has the capacity to produce 100,000 metric tons of white shrimp yearly.

Now on its seventh year, the Fisheries School on Air program aims to increase awareness on fisheries technologies and encourage fish farmers to adopt these to boost their income and livelihood opportunities.

Vannamei was earlier banned in the country because of fears that it would bring diseases to other shrimp species.

The BFAR started the experimental culture of white shrimp in December 2004. In April 2005, the BFAR, however, destroyed 900 stocks it brought from Hawaii because these were found to be positive of shrimp diseases.

In October that year, the BFAR received another batch of vannamei from Hawaii and these were certified by the University of Arizona as being free from the nine pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that cause diseases in white shrimps.

In September 2006, the BFAR opened the experimental culture to farmers by accrediting 33 farmers from Luzon for its commercial culture.

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BizNewsAsia honors business giants

BizNews Asia
The Philippines' Largest Weekly Business and Newsmagazine

LEGENDS. President Arroyo poses with the BREW (BizNewsAsia Real Estate Who Is Who) Awardees, from left, Michael Gutianun (Filinvest),Jacinto Tan Uy (Moldex), Romero Quimbo (Pag-IBIG Fund), Bayani Fernando (MMDA chairman), Rosemarie Basa (real estate advocacy), Reghis Romero II (R-II Builders), Manuel Serrano (CREBA), Antonio Abacan (Federal Land of Metrobank), John Gokongwei Jr. (JG Summit), BNA Publisher Tony Lopez, Henry Sy (SM), Tessie Sy (BDO), Jaime Ayala (Ayala Land), VP Noli de Castro, architect Nestor Mangio (Lakeshore), Rep. Rodolfo Valencia (RGV), Rene Almendras (Ayala Corp.), architect Felino Palafox, Frederick Go (Robinsons Land), Senate President Villar, architect Francisco Mañosa, Andrew Tan (Megaworld), and Edgardo Vasquez (Vazbuilt).

BizNewsAsia, the Philippines' largest weekly business and newsmagazine, honored the country's property pioneers and taipans with the BREW Award at a gala dinner marking its sixth anniversary Nov. 23 at the InterContinental.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and BizNewsAsia Publisher Tony Lopez gave the BNA Real Estate Who Is Who (BREW) trophies and plaques to 23 outstanding individuals for their vision, innovative work, achievements and contributions in the field of real estate and its ancillary industries.

The BNA anniversary gathered the country's movers and shakers in government and business led by the three highest officials of the land President Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro and Senate President Manuel Villar, cabinet members Peter Favila of Trade, Ignacio Bunye of Press, Angelo Reyes of Energy, Bayani Fernando of the MMDA, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., PCGG chief Camilo Sabio, PEZA chief Lilia de Lima, and Senators Ed Angara and Loren Legarda.

The tycoons and CEOs were led by Henry Sy Sr., John Gokongwei Jr., Oscar Lopez of First Holdings, Raul Concepcion, Andrew Tan, Ramon Ang of SMC, Tessie Sy of SMIC, P.O. Domingo of Allied Bank, Roy Navarro of CDC, Harley Sy, Placido Mapa, Antonio Abacan, Omar Mier of PNB, King Aguiluz, Francis Lim of PSE, Felix Ang of CATS Motors, Jose Leviste Jr., Willie Soong of Jaguar, Dave Balangue of SGV, Jaime Ayala, Donald Dee, Mike Varela, Sergio Ortiz Luis, Elizabeth Lee of CAMPI and UMC, Helen Lee, Rene Almendras, Noel Oñate, Peter Coyiuto, Kingson Sian, Mike Enriquez, and Baby Arenas.

Barry Gusi and some of his Guci Peace Prize laureates came as a big delegation. The BREW Awardees are: VP de Castro, Henry Sy Sr., Tessie Sy, John Gokongwei Jr, Andrew Tan, Frederick Go, Ramon Ang, Alfred Ty, Manuel Villar, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and brother Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Jacinto Tan Uy, Reghis Romero II, Manuel Serrano, Federico S. Quimbo, Rodolfo G. Valencia, Edgardo Vasquez, Nestor Mangio, Fran-

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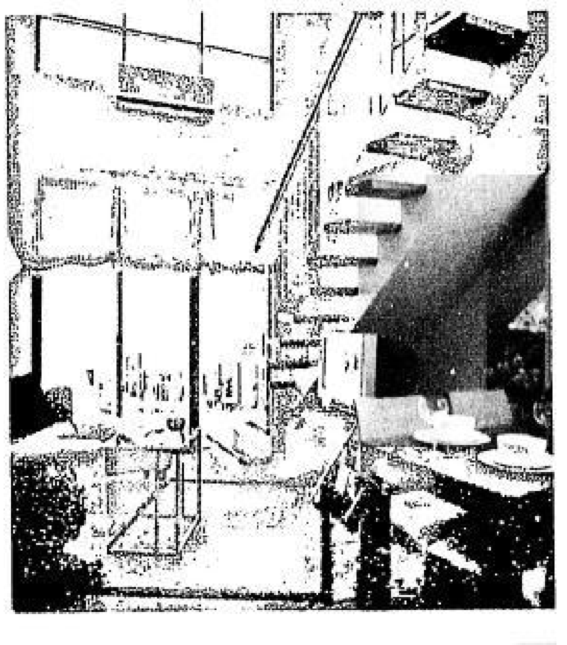

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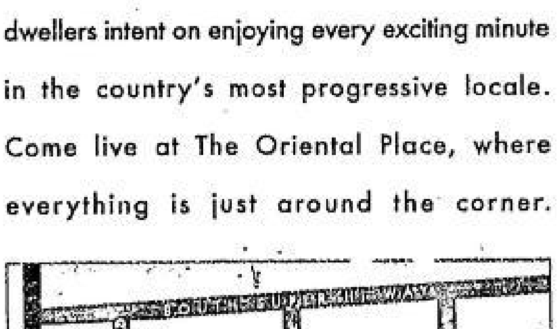

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BSP Governor Tetangco welcomes President Arroyo with Trade Secretary Peter Favila

WELCOME
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
BizNewsAsia
Happy 6th Anniversary

BNA Editor Tony Lopez blows his birthday cake. Beth Lee, his daughters Ciara Lopez and Noreen Lopez-Sulit, SM CEO Tessy Sy and SMC Vice Chair Ramon Ang join him.

LEADERS. Dave Balangue, Sergio Ortiz Luis, Jun Palafox, Lilia de Lima, Tony Lopez, Mike Valera, Donald Dee and Willie Soong

VEEP de Castro of HUDCC

SM's Tessie Sy receives her BREW from Tony Lopez and PGMA

FIRST Holding's Oscar Lopez

Philippines' Largest

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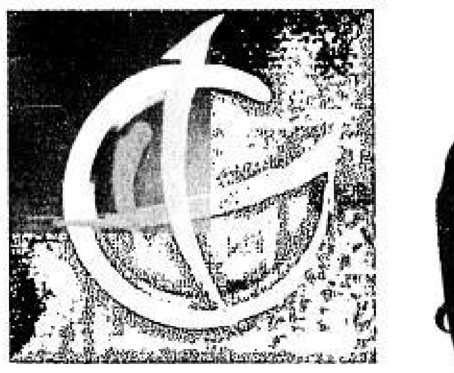
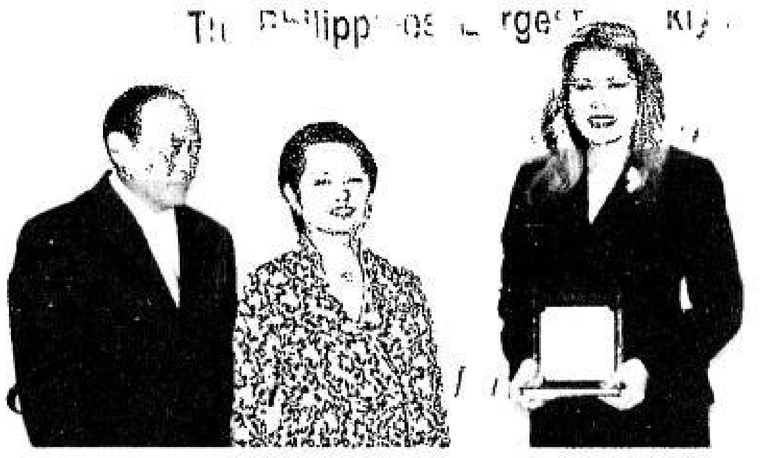
AGI's Andrew Tan gets his award

MOST popular senator Loren

HENRY Sy Sr. chats with Elizabeth Lee of UMC and CAMPI

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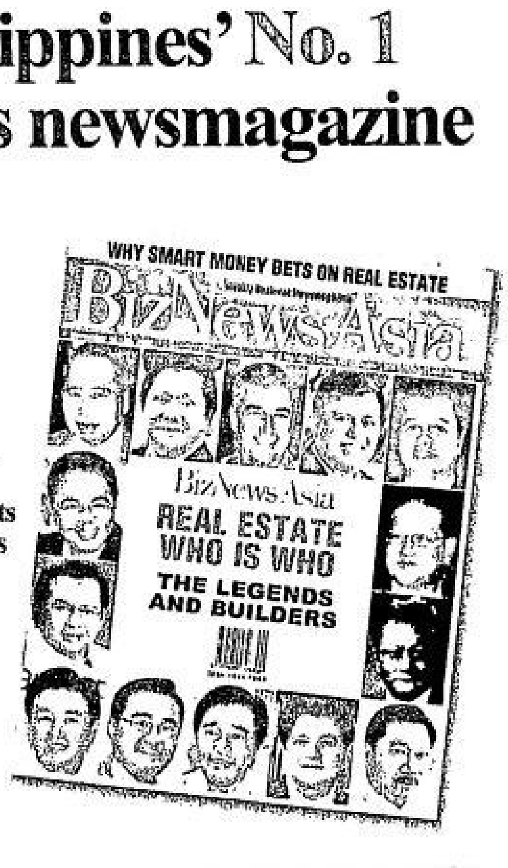
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THE LEGENDS
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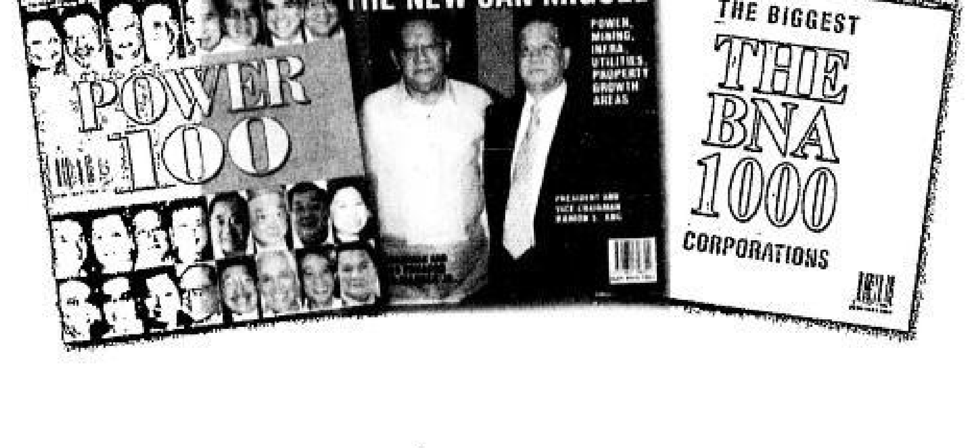
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BizNewsAsia honors business giants

HEARTWARMING. Retailing and banking king Henry Sy Sr. arrives in a wheelchair. He is ushered in by daughter Tessie Sy, BNA Publisher Tony Lopez, SMIC President Harley Sy, architect Felino Palafox, Willie Soong, and Ramon Ang of San Miguel.

From page B4-1

cisco Mañosa, Felino Palafox Jr., Andrew Gotianun, Bayani Fernando, and Rosemarie Custodio Basa of Philippine Real Estate Festival.

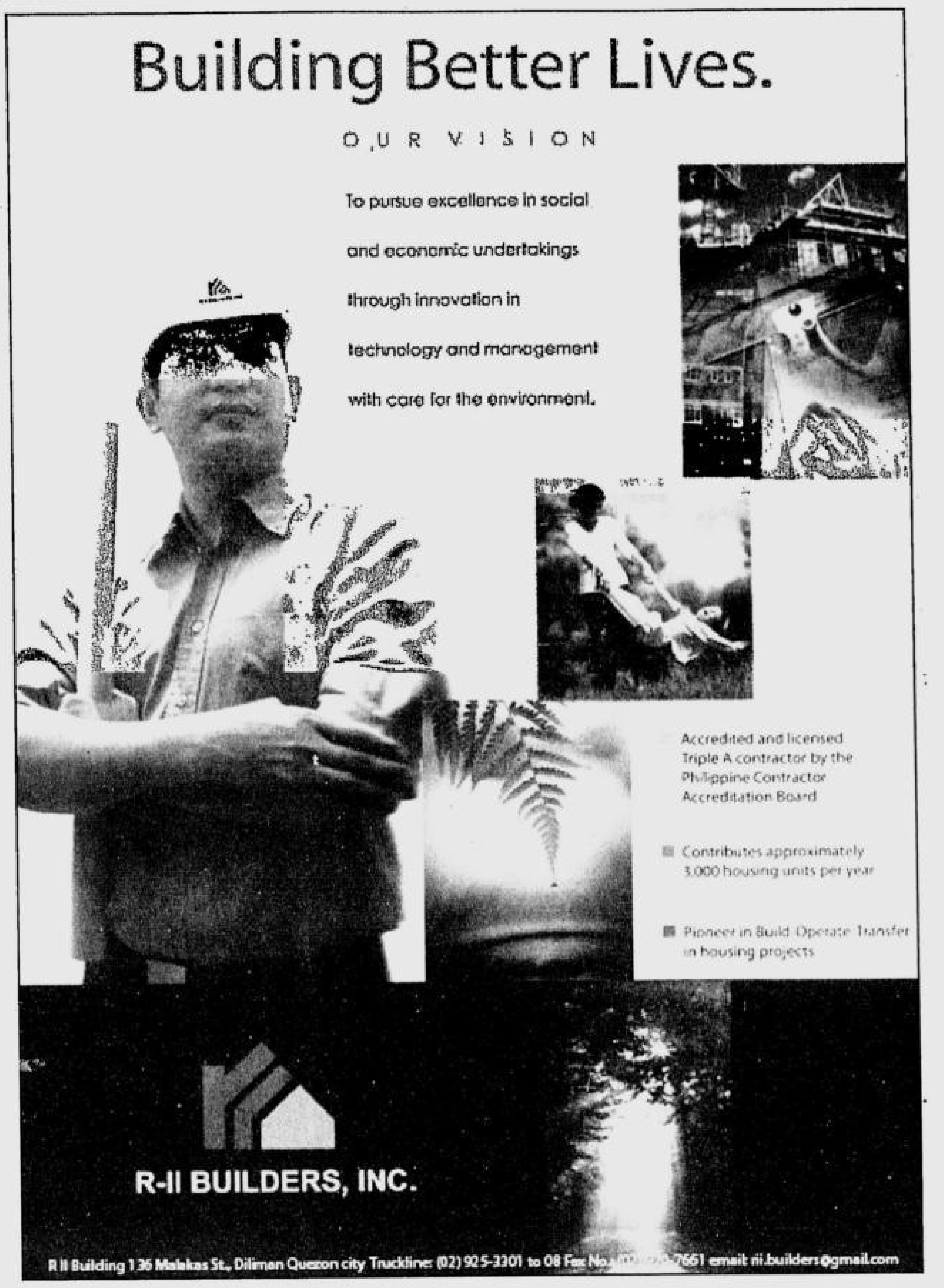
BizNewsAsia was founded in 2001 by journalist Tony Lopez, a veteran journalist of 40 years. He is a TOYM and Outstanding Manilan awardee for international journalism and the chairman of the Manila Overseas Press Club, Asia's oldest press club. He finished journalism, magna cum laude, at UST; 18 months of MBA at Ateneo, and global journalism at the University of Stockholm.

BizNewsAsia has unrivalled high-end readership of more than 210,000.

The BREW Awards are a first in the publishing industry.

Next year, on its 7th anniversary, BNA will give the BNA Business Icons Gold (BIG) Awards to honor individuals who are the gold standard in business and management, and the Second Annual BREW Awards.

BNA one year (50 issues) subscriptions are P3,500. Subscribers and advertisers may call 744-7887, 705-1781/82 or e-mail biznewsasia@gmail.com



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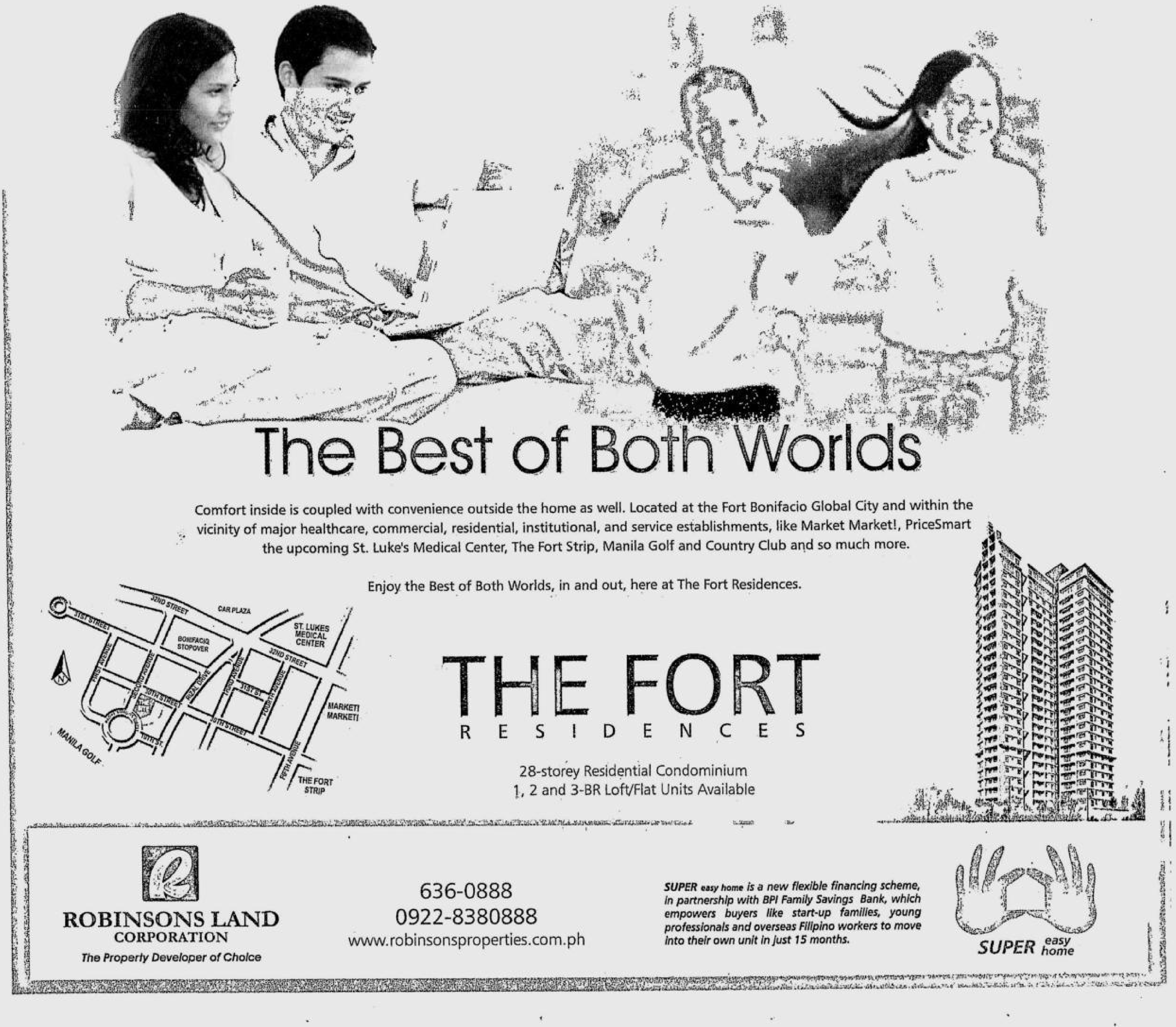

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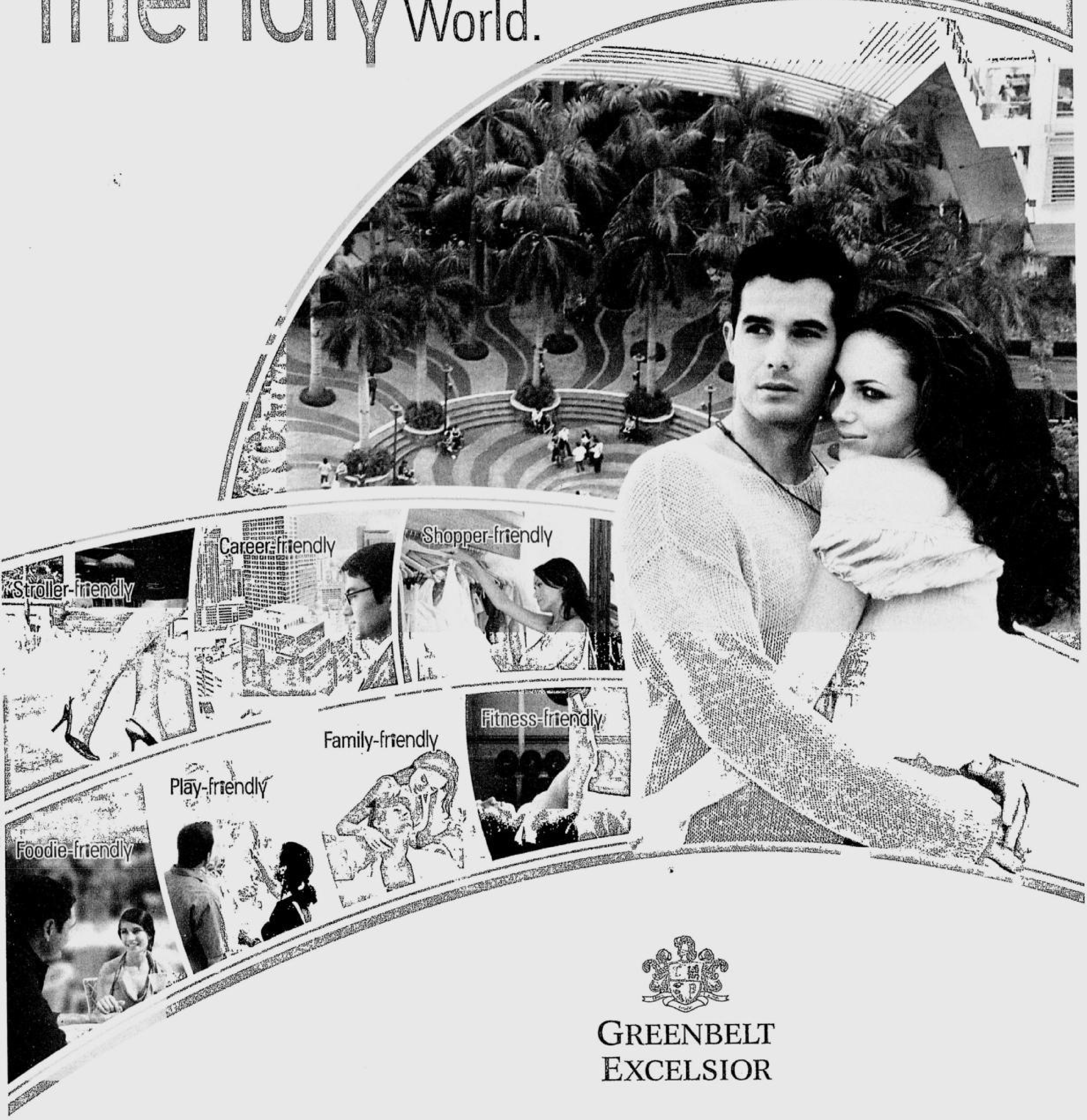
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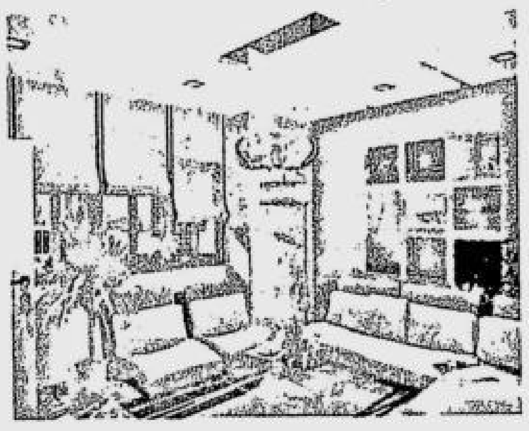

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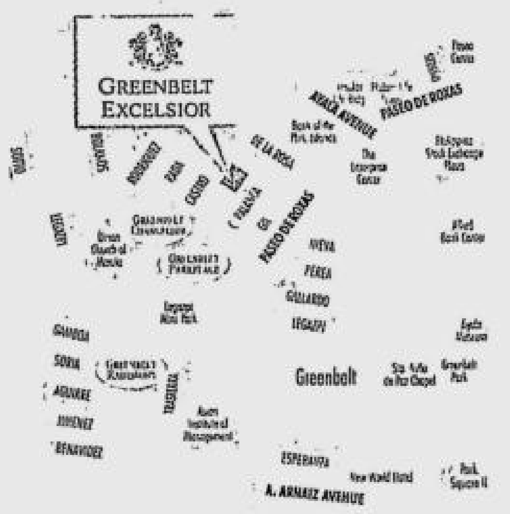
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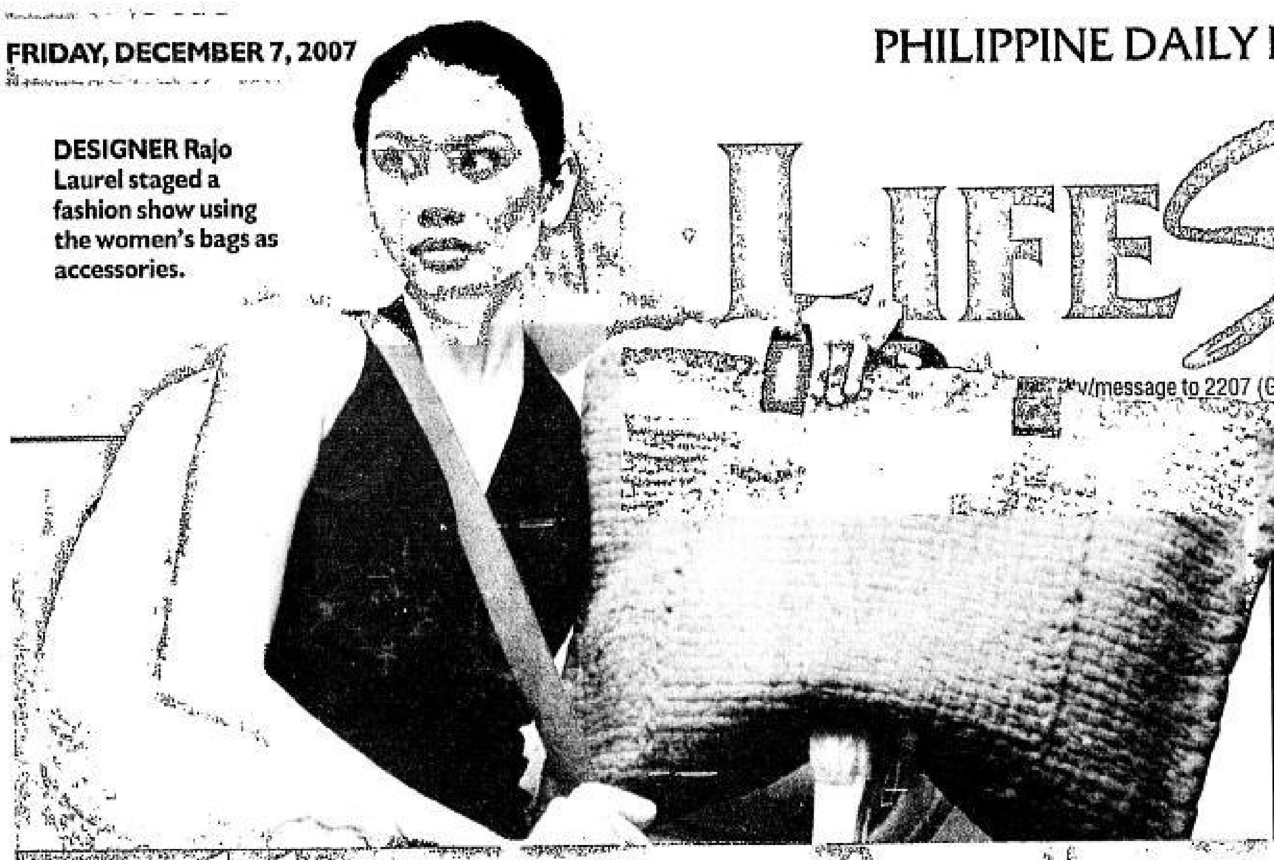


DESIGNER Rajo Laurel staged a fashion show using the women's bags as accessories.

FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

"WORLD-CLASS" products

Wedding reception becomes a fashion show

Soon-to-be-wed pair lets Payatas women use the reserved Shangri-La ballroom to showcase their handmade bags

By Kristine Alave
Contributor

JENNY AND HER FIANCÉ SIM were frustrated when their wedding set for Nov. 22 had to be postponed due to paperwork.

The bride-to-be said her fiancé was a Singaporean and a non-Catholic who had to comply with the church's requirements.

"The wedding invitations have already been printed, the church and reception booked and most of the arrangements made. So you can imagine our dismay and frustration," Jenny said by e-mail.

The wedding had to be rescheduled for next year. They could not get a refund from the Edsa Shangri-La for the cancellation of their booking of the Garden Ballroom where the reception was supposed to be held.

Huge, empty room

Left with a huge empty room, Jenny, who is based in Singapore, asked her family and friends for suggestions so their deposit would not go to waste.

Edsa Shangri-La allowed them to use the full deposit against food and drinks on the same date and same time.

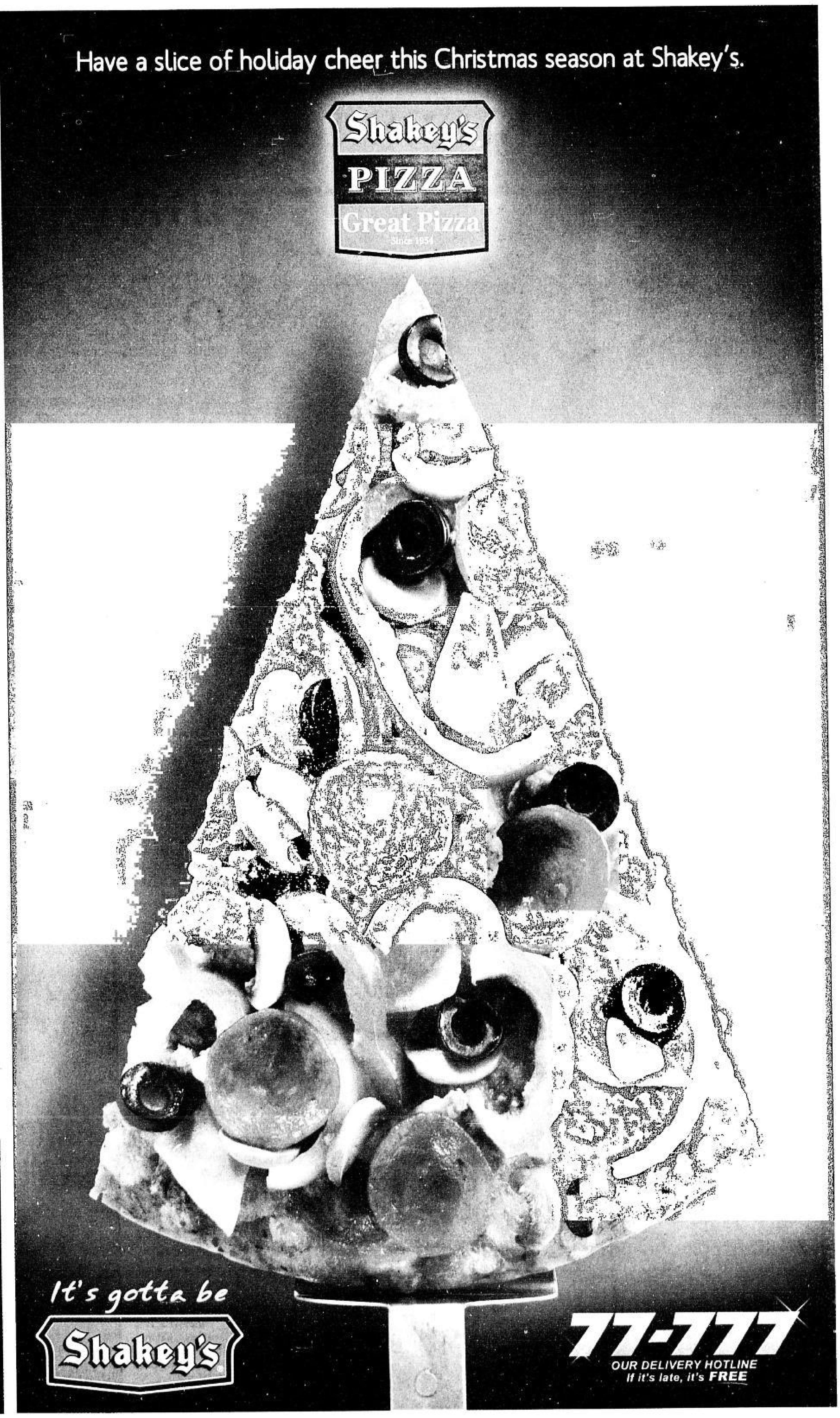
"Some friends suggested holding a *despedida de soltera* or just have friends and family over for a nice dinner. But we both didn't feel good about it and thought there must be someone out there who would need this more than we do. It was my fiance—bless his wonderful, wonderful heart—who actually suggested donating it to a better cause," she added.

One of her friends in college, Gigi Tobias, suggested linking up with Brother Xavier 'Javy" Alpasa of the Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan and one of the organizers of the Rags2Riches project in Payatas, Quezon City.

Jenny said when she learned the organi-

WEDDING/ C3

THE ITEMS generated so much interest the makers are now having trouble filling orders.



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PALE pink Grecian dress, Rajo Laurel; gold cuff, Freeway, P495

Try on jewel-toned dresses with light-reflecting details such as sequins and small beads. They will make you sparkle

ON KAT: Purple-blue tulle dress with ribbon and floral brooch, P7,995, Luna; sequined ballet flats, P3,895, Rustan's. On Katrina: Lace dress with pleated skirt, P1,699, Karimadon; gold necklace, P299, Freeway

her plaything
her little
believes she has a fairy godmother

Practical steps to dressing up this Christmas

By **Bianca Consunji**, *Contributor*

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S THE season of Christmas parties: the time for endless family reunions, where long-lost relatives feel it's their unspoken duty to hand in their yearly assessment of your appearance. If you've ever had a grandmother look you down from head to toe while you squirm in less-than-glamorous clothes, it's time to ditch the oversized shirts and baggy jeans and invest in a party-ready wardrobe.

The easiest way to look polished in an instant is to throw on a dress. While layering pants and vests can be a fun way to look dressed up for the holidays, tons of layers can be impractical, especially if you're partying in an outdoor venue. For easy, feminine style, a dress is the best way to go.

For this season, opt for jewel-toned dresses with light-reflecting details such as sequins and small beads, as blinking Christmas lights can bounce off them and make your dress sparkle. Shiny fabrics such as satin and lace can also make you look more festive.

If you want to stick to a soft, feminine look, go for classic shifts embellished with ribbons, tulle and lace. Pair them with pearls, delicate chains, and ballet flats (unless you're used to walking around in heels, stick to flats during parties to avoid aching feet at the end of the night). If you want to take a walk on the wild side, wear dresses with tights (which are hot this season), boots, and hats for a zany touch.

Make sure to match your dresses for the occasion: If you're planning to go all out on booze and food, don't wear something that requires dry-cleaning, just in case you spill red wine or get grease stains on your dress.

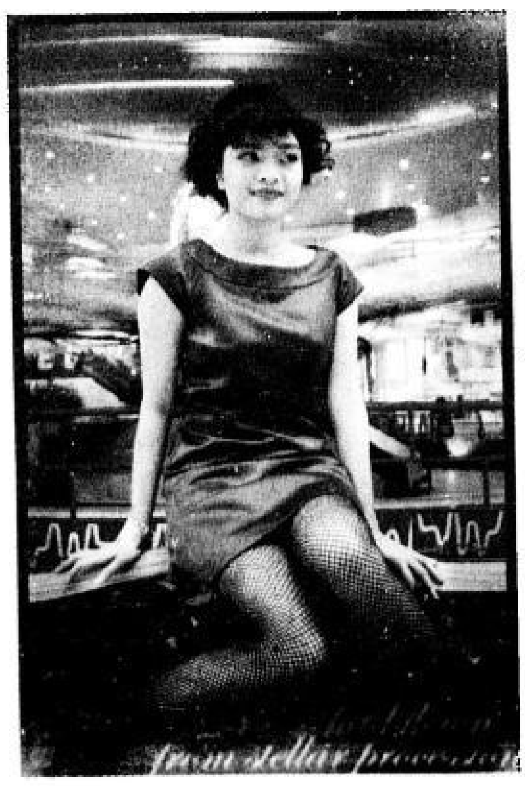
PEACH dress, P1,295, and sash, P299, Karimadon; yellow wedges, P795, Freeway

However, if you're pretty sure you'll remain sober for the rest of the night, you'll be safe with a classic, polished look.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Visit the photographer at http://terpsichordean.multiply.com

PEACH satin dress, P5,495, Luna at Rustan's; Faux pearls, P199, Ensembles; lace-covered shoes, P3,595, J.Lo at Rustan's



WINE-COLORED dress, P4,950, Luna; gold cuff, P495, Freeway; fishnet stockings, stylist's own

BEADED black-and-gold dress, P19,500, and gold shoes, P3,895, Rustan's; bowler hat, stylist's own

PHOTOGRAPHY
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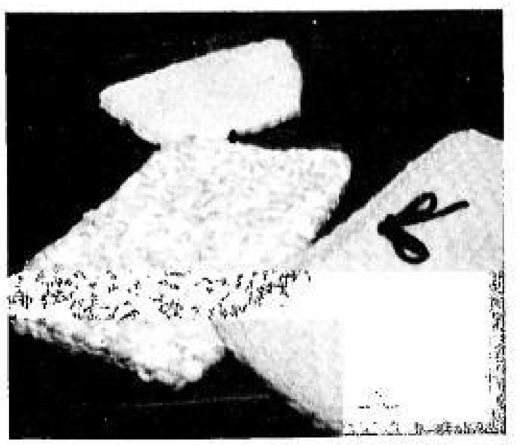
BLACK corset, P895, X; black skirt, P995, Freeway; faux pearls, P199, Ensembles; black patent leather shoes, P2,395, Janilyn; hat and fishnet stockings, stylist's own



PAYATAS women make bags out of leftover materials from garment factories.

THE women get P200-P900 per piece for the eyeglass cases, wallets, wine holders and beach bags they make.

Wedding . . .

From page C1

zation was having financial and logistics problems for the launch of their products, she knew it was the right beneficiary for their gift.

The 50 or so Payatas women make bags out of leftover materials from garment factories, a project started just last month. The women used to turn the scraps into rags.

The project gives the women the chance to sell directly to buyers to get a better price for their products by skipping the middlemen.

Something good

"The minute I read Gigi's e-mail about the Rags2Riches project... I knew this was it. Maybe, this is the reason we had to postpone the wedding for next year. Everything just fell into place and we just both felt so happy that something good came out of all our earlier frustrations," she said.

When the women started making their bags, their husbands got mad, Sugar Hernandez and Fenia Fonte, two of the sewers, said.

"But when they realized we were earning more, they (dropped their objection)," they noted.

While they used to sell rags for P8-P9 each, the women, who make eyeglass cases, wallets, wine holders, and beach bags, among others, now get P200-P900 per piece.

Robbie Carmona, a veteran fashion director, was invited to organize the launch in just four days. He did the work pro bono. "The minute I saw the products, I thought wow, this is world class," he said. Designer Rajo Laurel staged a fashion show using the women's bags as accessories.

On the evening of Nov. 22, around 40 Payatas women, dressed in their Sunday best, trooped to the Garden Ballroom to pitch their products.

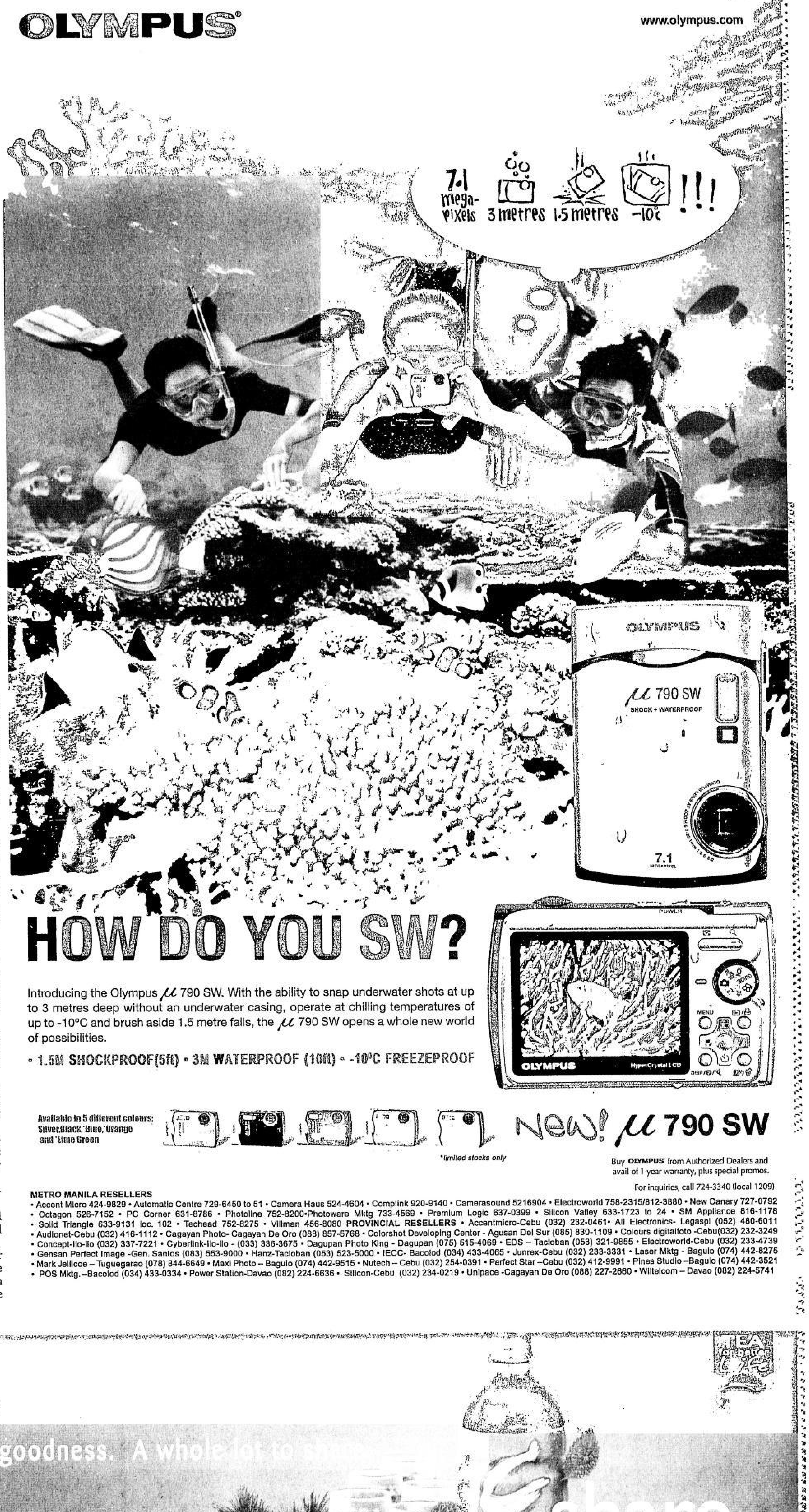
Edna Romero, one of the sewers, said they could not believe that their products would be featured in a fashion show. "This is our first time to experience this," she said.

Following the launch, the women had to deal with another problem. Their products generated so much interest they are now having trouble filling orders.

Alpasa said they were training more Payatas women to increase production.

At the end of the show, the women joined the models on stage to be photographed with their handiwork.

And perhaps as heaven's reward for their generosity, two days after they donated the room, Jenny and Sim got their permits from the Archdiocese of Singapore. They will be married in March.



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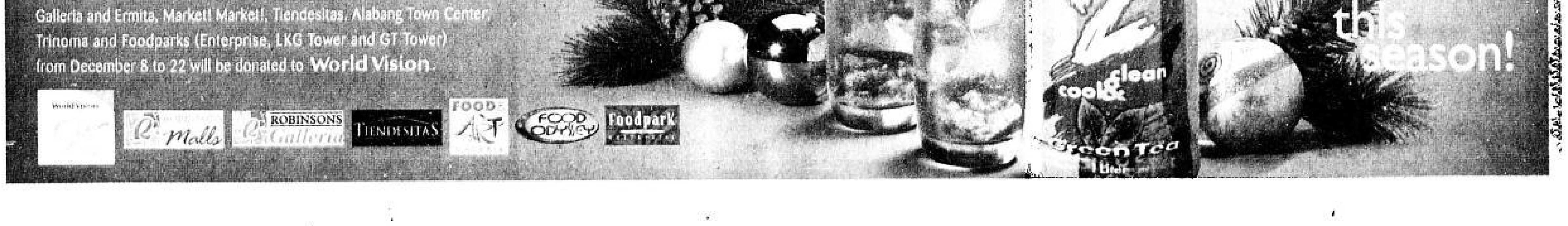

A whole liter of goodness. A whole lot to share

share this season!

A portion from every purchase of C2 in Robinson's Cebu, Galleria and Ermita, Market! Market!, Tiendesitas, Alabang Town Center, Trinoma and Foodparks (Enterprise, LKG Tower and GT Tower) from December 8 to 22 will be donated to World Vision.

World Vision
Malls
ROBINSONS Galleria
TIENDESITAS
FOOD ART
FOOD ODYSSEY
Foodpark

BALLROOM CONTEST FEB. 16
Michaela "Pinky" Puno (center) will chair the 1st Philippine Starball, an open international ballroom dance competition, on Feb. 16, at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila. The wife of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno is a Pro-Am dance competitor in the United States. A total of P7 million in prizes are at stake. The event is organized by the Council of United Professional Dance Teachers of the Philippines, Inc. (CUPDTP), in cooperation with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the First Gentleman's Foundation. Also at the press conference at Anabel's Morato were CUPDTP (www.cupdtp.org, 812-8464) president Jojo Carino (left) and vice-president Jerswin Poloyapoy (right).

GOINGS ON

LIFETIME Achievement Award recipient. Angelito Colona (center) of the Eagle Express Group received this year's Lifetime Achievement Award from the Global Cargo Carriers, Inc. (GCCI) during the 7th Industry Awards Night held recently at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza. GCCI, an organization of airline cargo managers in the Philippines, aims to professionalize the air cargo industry in the country. With Colona are Russel Rubin and Jimmy Zambrano, GCCI past presidents.

Fuss-free but fashionable gifts

TRY PENSHOPPE'S HOLIDAY GIFT SETS. Choose from printed flip-flops, sling bags, pillows, body butters, shower gels, belts and tote bags—all done up in Oriental-inspired, jewel-toned wrappings that give your gifts a unique identity. Super-soft tank tops and shorts are laced with sweet Oriental swirls, while funky boxers and bikinis are packed into whimsical Chinese takeout boxes. With these gift sets, your Christmas shopping list is fuss-free and you'll be surprised to see that you still have some bucks left to get that cool outfit you've been wanting all along. Log on to www.penshoppe.com.

XMAS CONCERT. The University of Santo Tomas will present "A Symphony of Carols: The UST Christmas Concert 2007," on Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m., at the UST Church (Santisimo Rosario Parish Church). The annual concert features Thomasian talents across the generations performing popular and classical Christmas music. The concert is open to the public. Call the UST Office of Public Affairs, 731-3544 or 406-1611 local 8513.

BAZAAR. The Zonta Club of Manila Bazaar is set on Dec. 9, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Hotel Intercontinental. Proceeds will go for the second 19-unit Gawad Kalinga-Zontaville housing project to break ground in Mandaluyong in January 2008. All major cards will be accepted. The Zonta Manila committee is composed of Sol Dizon, Baby Perez-Sison, Letty Calma, Nonie Basilio, Nene Pe, Fely Umandap, Judy Bacosa, Baby de Jesus, Daisy Arce, Gina Gerladez and Cynthia Cruz.

FUND-RAISER FOR BIG CATS. The Thomasian Alumni Support, a non-profit group of University of Santo Tomas alumni volunteers, is holding a fund-raising party for the UST Growling Tigers Dec. 15, 8 p.m., at the Ricco Renzo Art Gallery, LRI Bldg. 201 N. Garcia (formerly Reposo) St., Bel Air II, Makati City. "One for the Tigers" will be attended by the coaching staff and members of the '07 and '08 team members. Some memorabilia will be auctioned off. Tickets cost P1,000 each. Proceeds will go to the 2008 University Athletic Association of the Philippines campaign of the Tigers (0927-3523071, 0919-8903566, 0919-47268888, 895-2476).

BAZAAR. UNICEF greeting cards and gift items are available at the 19th Angel Sent Bazaar on Dec. 15-16 at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati City. Call 828-6394/95, 0920-8766505 and 0927-7239798.

BOOKFAIR. Tower Book House is holding a mini-book fair of Filipiniana books until Dec. 30 at Windsor Tower, 163 Legazpi Street, Legazpi Village, Makati City (815-4938 and 815-6925).

EXHIBIT. After a successful first leg in SM City Pampanga; The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin will have a Manila exhibit until Dec. 9 at SM Mall of Asia (895-2966 or 610-0870 or log on to www.shroudexhibits.ph or e-mail info@shroudexhibits.ph).

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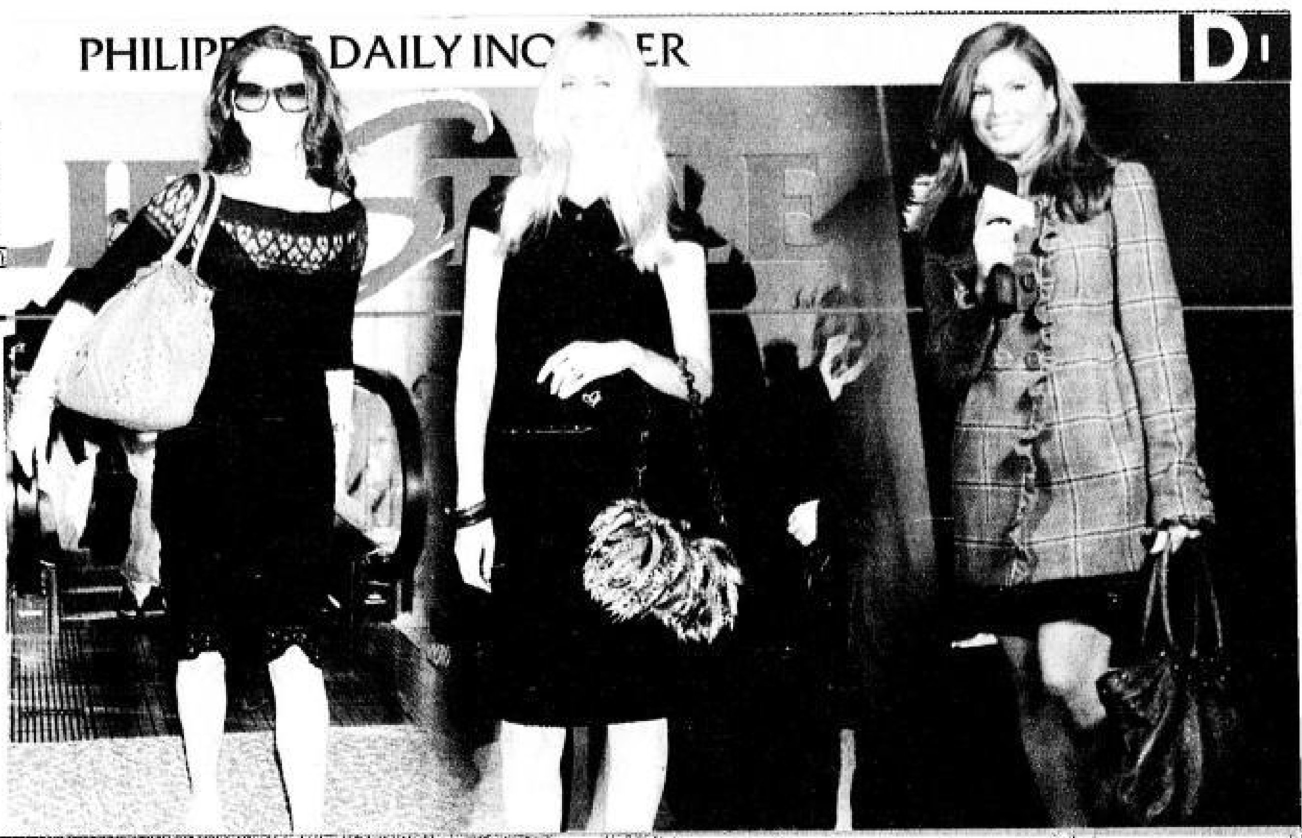


CATHERINE Zeta Jones (third from right) and Eva Mendes (right) carrying a Salvatore Ferragamo Eleonora Bag; and Claudia Schiffer (second from right) carrying Salvatore Ferragamo Eleonora Bag.

Hollywood style icons love Ferragamo

ACTRESS Sarah Jessica Parker on location for "Sex and the City"

LOVED FOR ITS QUALITY, LUXURIOUS, and unique hand-made designs from footwear, bags, and apparel, Italian brand Salvatore Ferragamo has been a fashion must-have for stylish women. Proving its prominence in the fashion industry for over eight decades, Hollywood celebrities have always been spotted with their favorite Ferragamo bags or shoes.

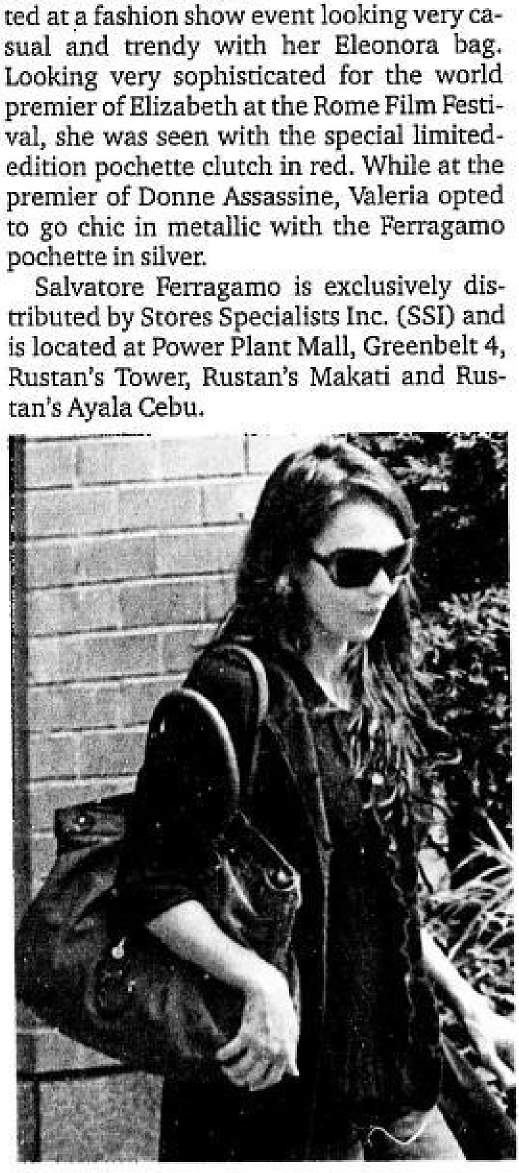
Even with their style differences, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Eva Mendes, Angie Harmon and Jessica Alba have a common denominator with the Salvatore Ferragamo Eleonora bag. Spotted out and about the city, Jessica Alba, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Angie Harmon all accessorized their casual daytime outfits with the trendy Ferragamo bag to carry all their essentials. While Eva Mendes uses it during a shoot of one of her latest movies.

Another Hollywood and style star Sarah Jessica Parker always exudes elegance and originality in every outfit she wears. While filming "Sex and the City," the style icon was spotted on the set donning a Ferragamo small feather bag. Supermodel Claudia Schiffer is also a fan of this uniquely designed arm-candy, sporting it during the Spring Summer 2008 women's ready-to-wear show in Milan.

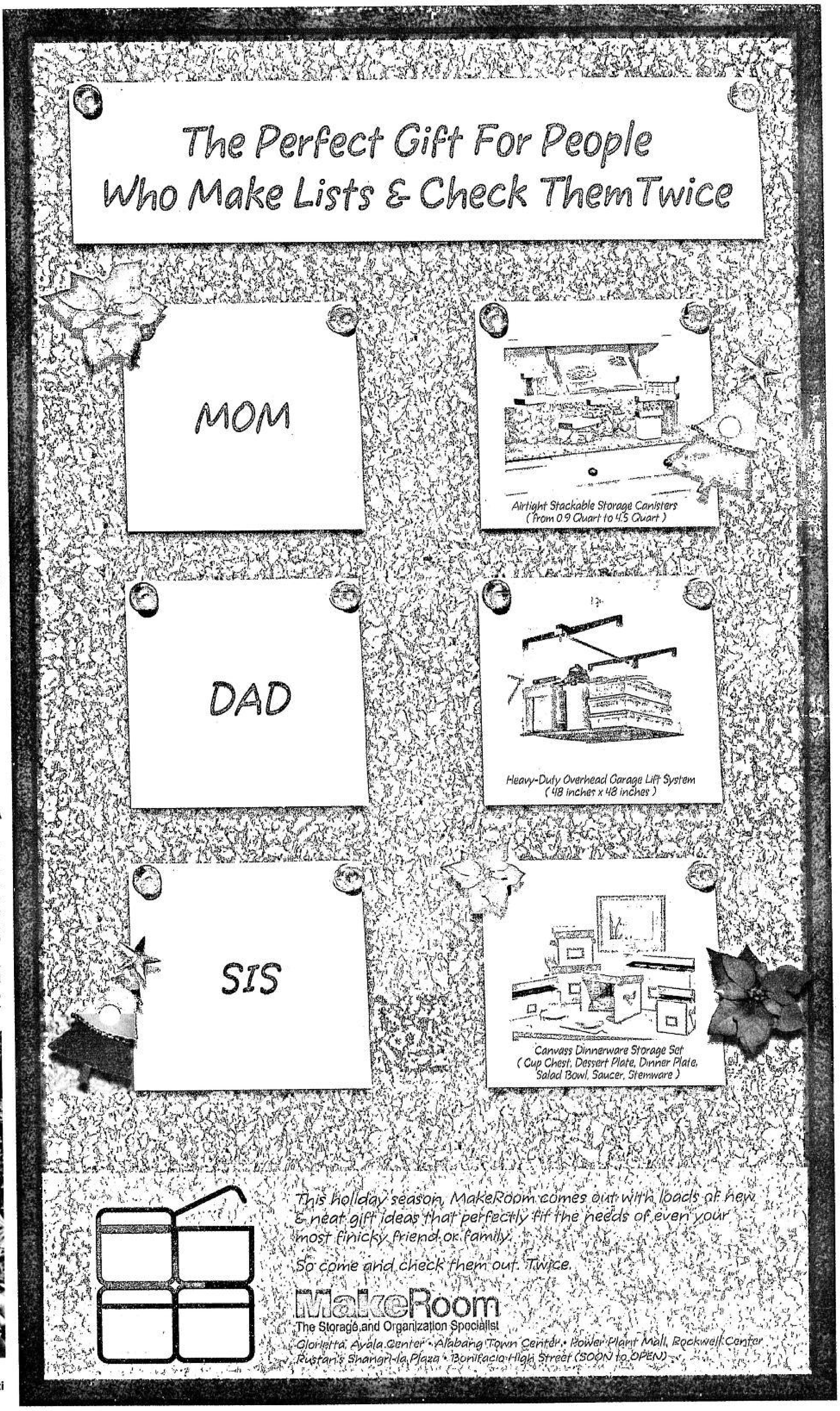
Renowned Italian actress Valeria Solarino always exudes elegance by donning Salvatore Ferragamo creations. She was spotted at a fashion show event looking very casual and trendy with her Eleonora bag. Looking very sophisticated for the world premier of Elizabeth at the Rome Film Festival, she was seen with the special limited-edition pochette clutch in red. While at the premier of Donne Assassine, Valeria opted to go chic in metallic with the Ferragamo pochette in silver.

VALERIA Solarino

Salvatore Ferragamo is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. (SSI) and is located at Power Plant Mall, Greenbelt 4, Rustan's Tower, Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Ayala Cebu.



JESSICA Alba, in Vancouver to do some reshoots on her film The Eye, dashes to her taxi in downtown Vancouver.



The Perfect Gift For People Who Make Lists & Check Them Twice

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This holiday season, MakeRoom comes out with loads of new & neat gift ideas that perfectly fit the needs of even your most finicky friend or family.

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HOODED HOLIDAY: White hooded jacket and denim pants on him while she's wearing a white hooded top over a black turtleneck cardigan and denim pants

GRAY hooded tunic cardigan layered with a black sleeveless dress, gray pleated dress and pink footless tights

WHITE quarter-sleeve cropped cardigan over a pink sleeveless dress on her and a maroon hooded jacket on him, worn with denim pants

Cool cover-ups

FOR THE COOLER weather for the days ahead, here are some ways to warm up in style from SM:

- Holiday hoodies. It's not only the boys, but also the girls, in the hood as hoodies emerge as one of the trendiest cover-ups for the season. Hooded jackets, after all, have gone a long way from being functional. And for the holidays, these come with a blast—in high-contrast black and white pieces, the most sensational of stripes, and in smart and sporty styles.
- Cardigans. Long the dress of choice of preppie schoolgirls, cardigans have been updated for a stylish new generation at SM. Today, these come in cropped button-down versions, chic turtleneck zip-front cardigans and other styles that make them the perfect covers for the season.
- Jackets. Jackets with a lot of attitude come in cool designs for the holidays. Striped and graffiti-print jackets have the rebel-without-a-cause edge, while classic black and khaki jackets keep one warm and wonderfully in style.

The collection is available at the Girls Teens and Boys Teens Departments of all SM stores.

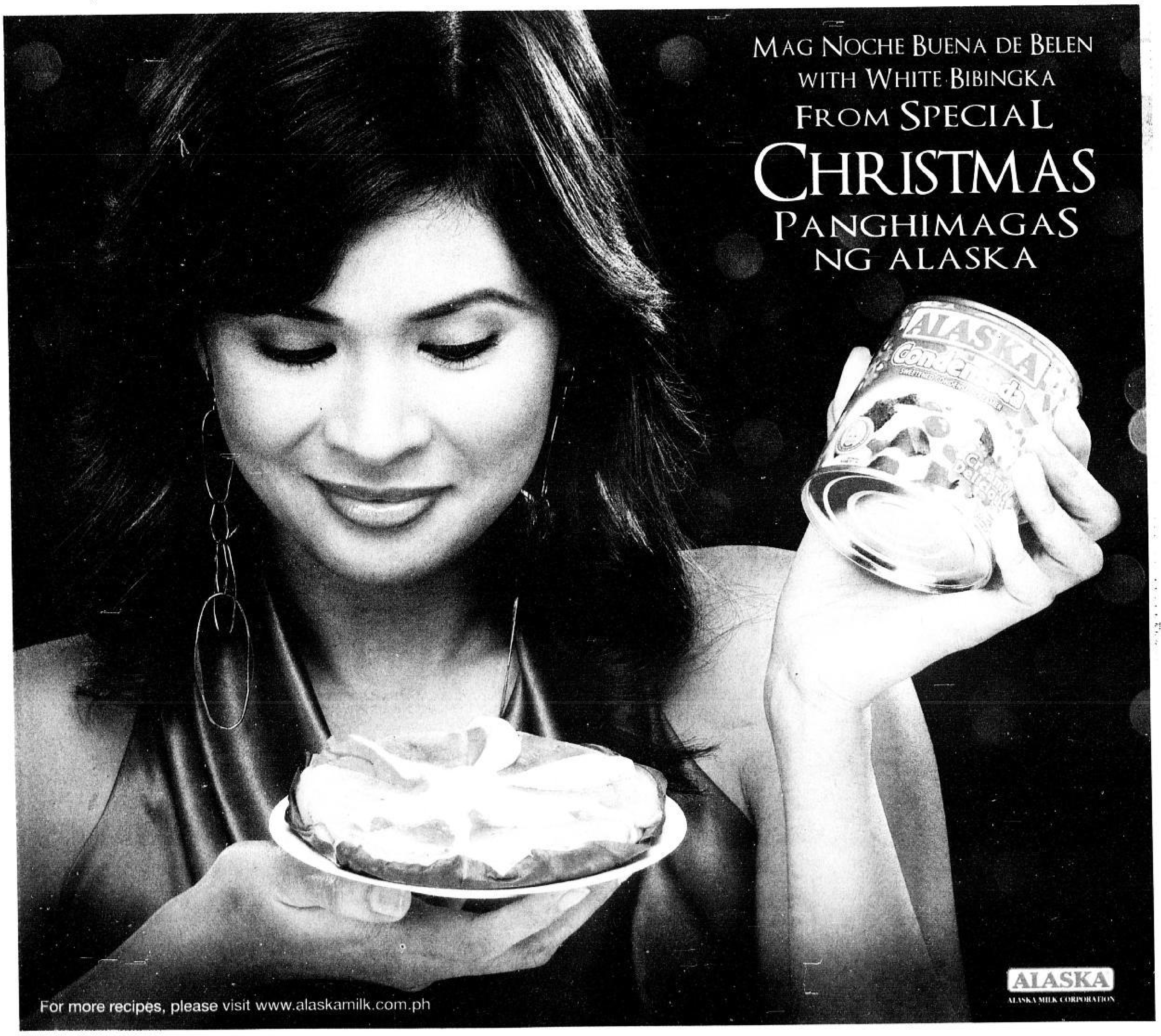
Fashion available at the SM Department Store.

PHOTOGRAPHY ERWIN BARLETA
LOCATION ONE ESPLANADE

STRIPED hooded sleeveless zip-front top worn over a long-sleeve shirt and denim pants

CORAL-PINK cropped cardigan worn over a yellow printed shirt and slim-fit denim pants

DYNAMIC DUO: She's wearing a fuchsia and coral-pink striped cardigan over a coral-pink top and plaid pants while he's in a brown zip-front jacket and denim jeans.



Retro glamour

BLACK jersey blouse with ruffled neckline and purple plain mini skirt

PLAID [illegible]

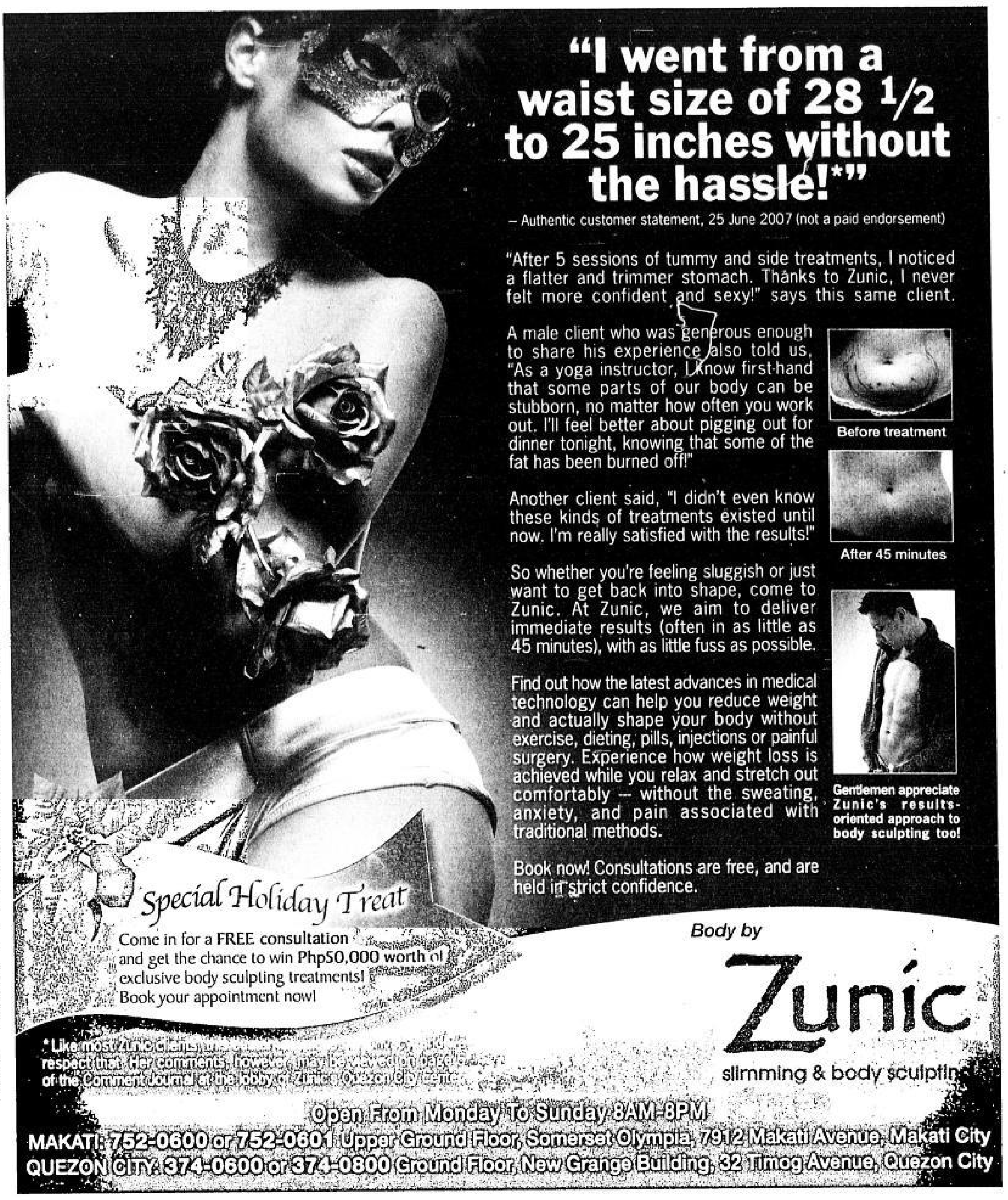
MAXINE, A CLOTHING line for plus-sized women, recently released its 2007 holiday collection that brings back the 60's glamour of retro fabrics but with a modernized splash of bold teal, black, champagne gold, and purple.

Maxine's holiday collection is channeling the styles of Jackie Kennedy and Audrey Hepburn. These pieces include flirty blouses in princess cuts and peter pan collars, fabrics in soft satin, and denims ranging from roll-ups to boot cut with stretchy effect for the most flattering fit. Shapely women don't have to compromise on style just to hide their flaws. Maxine is about giving full-figured women the freedom to express their own individuality while giving them the right fit and comfort in affordable prices.

The new luxe this Christmas is a feast for the senses. Maxine perfects the look by using stretchy and light material perfect for the modern full-figured Filipina. Maxine's red jersey dress is ultra feminine in stretch fabric, which is perfect for women who want to flaunt their bods. Pair it with opaque stockings, a strand of pearls and stacked heels for an evening feel. Another look that is great all-year round is Maxine's satin blouse in champagne-gold accented with ruffled sleeves. To dress it accordingly, Maxine suggests: "For an office to dinner look, the gold is dressy enough to wear with basic black twill boot-leg pants to give it a more classy and shapely look."

Maxine is available in its boutique in TriNoma and the Plus Size section of major department stores nationwide.

RED jersey shirred dress with black piping



"I went from a waist size of 28 1/2 to 25 inches without the hassle!*"

– Authentic customer statement, 25 June 2007 (not a paid endorsement)

"After 5 sessions of tummy and side treatments, I noticed a flatter and trimmer stomach. Thanks to Zunic, I never felt more confident and sexy!" says this same client.

A male client who was generous enough to share his experience also told us, "As a yoga instructor, I know first-hand that some parts of our body can be stubborn, no matter how often you work out. I'll feel better about pigging out for dinner tonight, knowing that some of the fat has been burned off!"

Another client said, "I didn't even know these kinds of treatments existed until now. I'm really satisfied with the results!"

So whether you're feeling sluggish or just want to get back into shape, come to Zunic. At Zunic, we aim to deliver immediate results (often in as little as 45 minutes), with as little fuss as possible.

Find out how the latest advances in medical technology can help you reduce weight and actually shape your body without exercise, dieting, pills, injections or painful surgery. Experience how weight loss is achieved while you relax and stretch out comfortably — without the sweating, anxiety, and pain associated with traditional methods.

Book now! Consultations are free, and are held in strict confidence.

Before treatment

After 45 minutes

Gentlemen appreciate Zunic's results-oriented approach to body sculpting too!

Special Holiday Treat

Come in for a FREE consultation and get the chance to win Php50,000 worth of exclusive body sculpting treatments! Book your appointment now!

Body by Zunic
slimming & body sculpting

* Like most Zunic clients, [illegible] respect that. Her comments, however, may be viewed on page [illegible] of the Comment Journal at the lobby of Zunic Quezon City cent[illegible]

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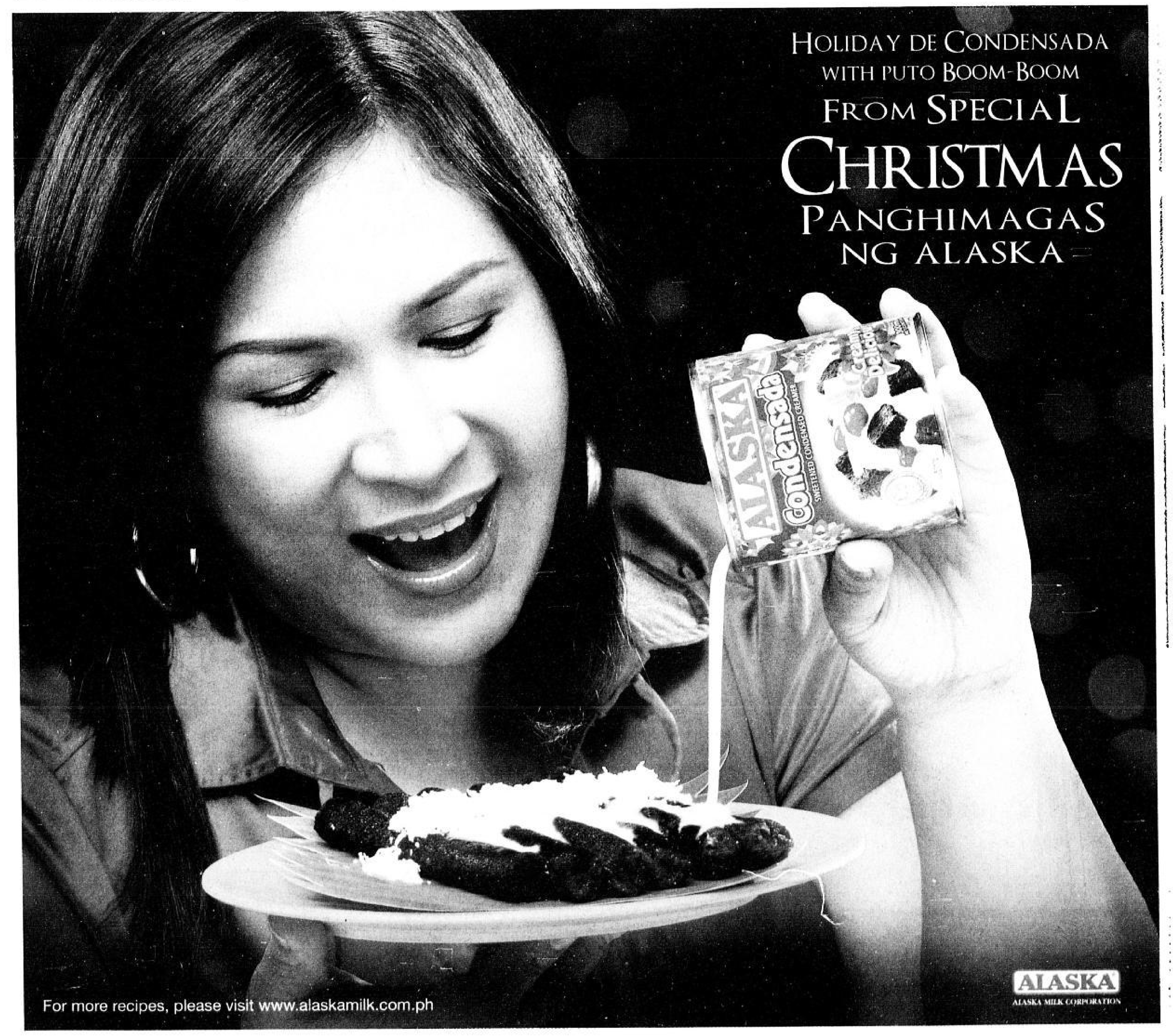

HOLIDAY DE CONDENSADA WITH PUTO BOOM-BOOM FROM SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PANGHIMAGAS NG ALASKA

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SM Advantage continues to provide members with Philam Insurance benefits

The **SM Advantage Loyalty Program** – in partnership with **Philam Insurance** – continues to provide unique insurance benefits to its ever-increasing membership base which to date numbers over 3.5 million.

Coverage

Designed to protect SM Advantage members and their families against the uncertainties and financial difficulties brought about by accidents, the **Comprehensive Personal Accident Insurance** package includes:

- 24-hour Coverage, 365 days a year, worldwide!
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Disability Benefits
- Unprovoked Murder and Assault Coverage
- Accidental Burial Expense Reimbursement
- No Medical Examination Required
- Entry age: 18 to 65 years old, renewable up to age 72.
- Commercial Flying Coverage

Eligibility

Upon accumulation of 70 reward points, an SM Advantage member becomes automatically eligible for a ₱100,000 Philam Personal Accident Insurance Coverage for one year.

- Member must be 18 to 65 years old and have a minimum balance of 70 points.
- Members who were not covered by the Insurance Program last year.
- Members who did not opt out from the Insurance Program last year.

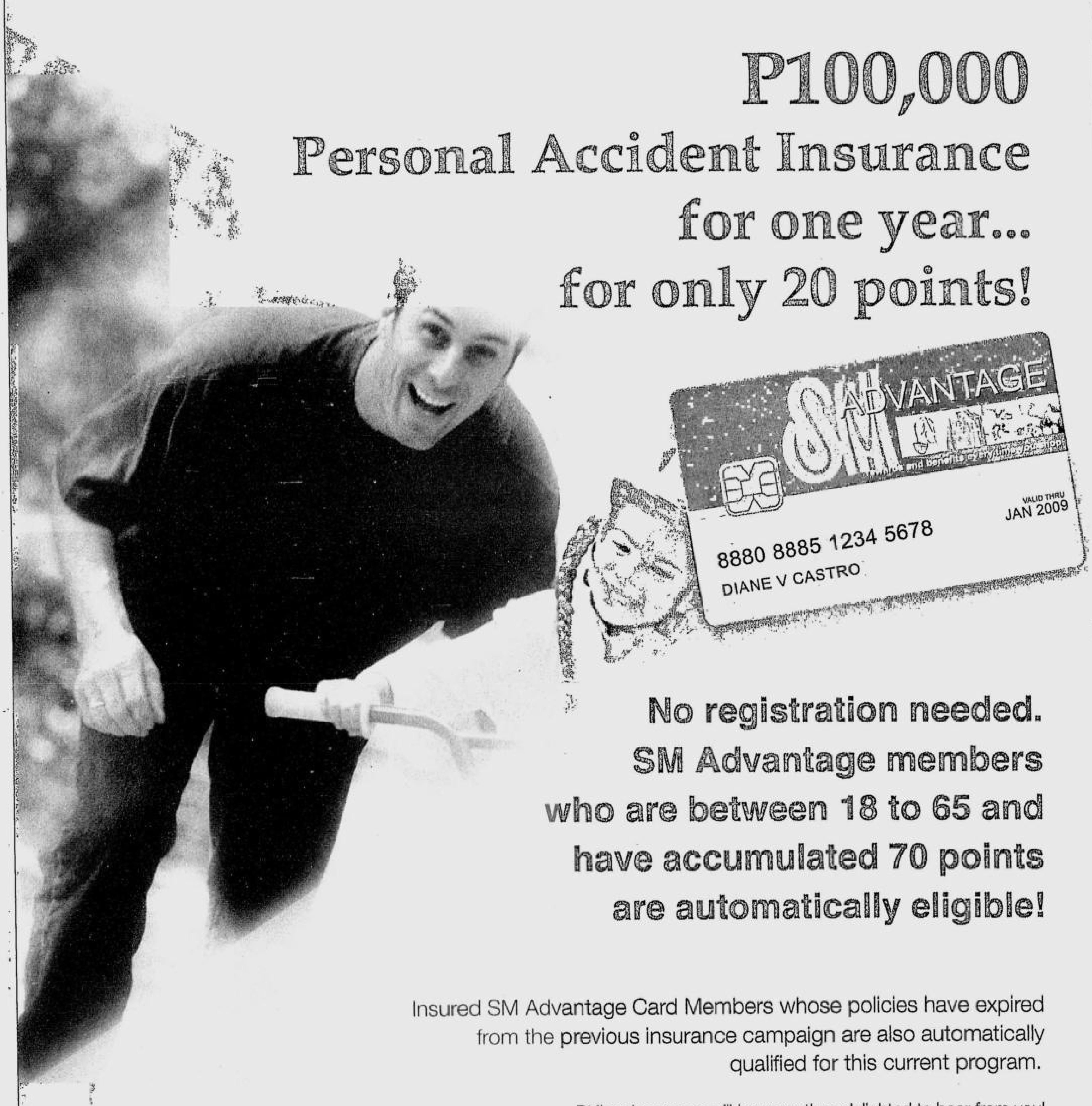
A token payment of 20 points is automatically deducted from the qualified member's points balance.

Mr. Winfred Bartolome (at left, with daughters Justina and Andrea) accepts claim proceeds from Mr. Rey Maclang, Assistant Vice President of Marketing Convergence, Inc. (an affiliate of the SM Group of Companies), and Ms. Josette Pacho, Assistant Vice President of Philam Insurance. This insurance benefit is arranged by SM in partnership with Philam Insurance for eligible SM Advantage members.

Mr. Bartolome's wife was an SM Advantage member who was insured with Philam. As her beneficiary, Mr. Bartolome received the sum of ₱110,000 representing her insurance benefit.

P100,000

Personal Accident Insurance for one year... for only 20 points!



No registration needed. SM Advantage members who are between 18 to 65 and have accumulated 70 points are automatically eligible!

Insured SM Advantage Card Members whose policies have expired from the previous insurance campaign are also automatically qualified for this current program.

Philam Insurance will be more than delighted to hear from you!
Call Philam's Hotline at **(02) 528-5202** for your inquiries.

SM Advantage members who do not wish to avail of the offer may opt out via any of the following methods:

- SMS: Register first by sending SMAC REG <16-digit SMAC #> <4-digit PIN> to 2213
  Text SMAC INSURANCE OUT to 2213 [P2.50/text]
- Fax: Fax the accomplished form to 833-8888 (IVRS-press option 5)
- Customer Service Counter: Fill-out and cut-out the form below and submit to the Customer Service Counter at any SM Department Store Branch.

☐ NO. I do not wish to avail of this privilege.
Date:____________ SM Advantage Membership Card Number:________________
Name:________________________________ Tel:________________________
Address:______________________________ Signature:__________________

You have until Dec. 31 to opt out. If we do not hear from you by then, you will be automatically enrolled in this program and 20 points will be deducted from your SM Advantage Account.

SM ADVANTAGE

PHILAM INSURANCE

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SM Advantage members who are currently not eligible because they have less than 70 points will be included in the program when they reach the required points balance.

Review and consideration of eligibility of members will be done every 15th of each month and effectivity of coverage will commence on the 16th of the same month.

Exclusions

War or war-like operations, military or naval service, willful participation in any crime, self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide, osteoporosis, childbirth, miscarriage, or any pregnancy-related complications, accident or loss while under the influence of alcohol or unprescribed drugs, professional sports.

Worldwide Network

Philam Insurance Company, Inc. is a member of Philam Group of Companies, which includes Philamlife and General Insurance, Philam Care, Philam Plans, Philam Bank, Philam Asset Management, Philam Properties and AIG Credit Card. With assets over Php8.9 Billion, Philam Insurance is considered as one of the largest in the industry.

American International Group (AIG) is a worldwide leader in financial services and the largest commercial insurer in the world. AIG has offices in over 130 countries and jurisdictions worldwide. AIG has been in the insurance business for 75 years and has assets worth over US$798 Billion. AIG is a member of the World Travel and Tourism Council. In the Philippines, AIG is represented by the Philam Group of Companies.

Note: This ad contains only a general description of the coverage and is not a statement of contract. All coverages are subject to the exclusions and conditions of the actual policy.

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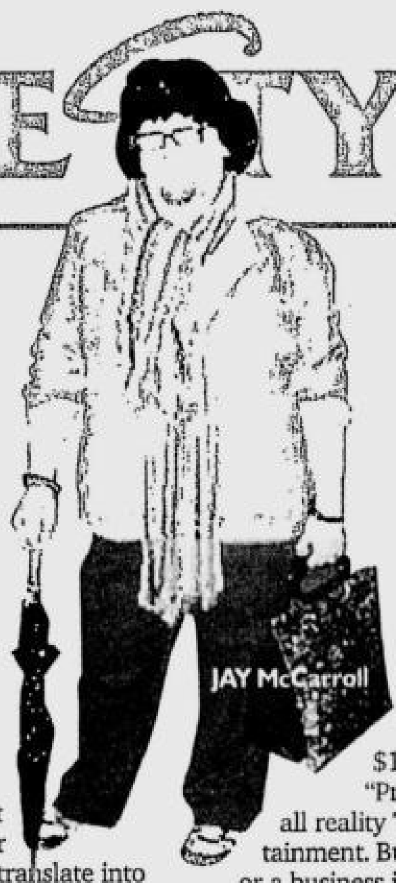


LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

Fashion reality TV winners suffer from reality

'Project Runway' winner is still homeless in NY

A FASHION DESIGNER-FRIEND called me up the other day, using this drop-everything-and-listen-to-this tone: "Did you know, 'Project Runway' winners are homeless? They're as poor as when they joined the show."

I am not an avid follower of "Project Runway," but many people are. It's the reality show that keeps fashion designers, legitimate or wanna-be's, holed up for a season, where they are challenged to create designs in the most strenuous conditions and using the most incredible materials. It's a worn-out reality-show formula, but it keeps couch potatoes glued on TV.

My designer friend was reading the New York magazine, which did a cover story on the post-show lives of the winners and contestants of top reality shows "Project Runway" and "Top Chef." "Fame Over" is splashed on the cover. "For its former contestants, reality is a bitch," the magazine declares.

Jay McCarroll, famous winner of the first season of "Project Runway," told the magazine he's still homeless in New York, his 2007 collection just hanging in the studio. "I sleep at other people's houses. I sleep here if I'm drunk," he said.

It has turned out that the contestants' fame—or notoriety—doesn't easily translate into business, much less a career. "Celebrity came easily to Jay. Business did not," the mag says. Jay, like other contestants, got loads of e-mail, would get stop in his tracks by fans, all of them wondering where his clothes would be available.

Jay worked for five straight months in the show, "with zero pay and little sleep," the mag reports.

Another contestant had relatively better luck. **Andrae Gonzalo** at least makes money from doing celebrity gigs, like hosting at gay bars. Still another contestant talked about guesting in a "Battle of the Network Reality Stars" and being handed a $500 for it. "I felt so cheap and tawdry," he told New York.

But it's not all downside. The more seasoned designers were able to use the show to boost their careers and business. An interesting bit of information: Jay-Weinstein Company, the show's owner, would "forever" own a 10-percent stake in the winner's brand, if the winner decides to take his $100,000 prize.

"Project Runway," like all reality TV shows, is entertainment. But building a career or a business in real life is hardly entertainment. "The problem is that reality-show success is no substitute for real-world experience," New York mag says.

As contestant Andrae told New York: "I am now a famous fashion designer. But that is so different from a successful fashion designer."

In this era when puffery can be beguiling—especially if it comes in the right packaging and with the right marketing hype—it's easy to forget that it takes years to learn, and it takes even longer years to build a career. "It takes years to build a fashion business," the mag says.

The realities of the fashion industry are: you need a financier to turn out your collection; you need the acumen to build the business infrastructure that will get your collection to your market; and you need the marketing savvy to get your market to sit up and buy.

Brick by brick—is how my designer-friend describes the process of building a career or business. Glamour is only the sheen on the surface. The core is blood, sweat, tears—and ample discernment. Hype or publicity is only the beginning of it.

But then, there are those who like to believe that they can begin and maintain their lifestyle career on hype. These are the people you love to watch, for they end up as caricatures in your book. The movie "The Devil Wears Prada" has one unfortunate effect: Now people think that just because they have a Prada, they could play the devil.

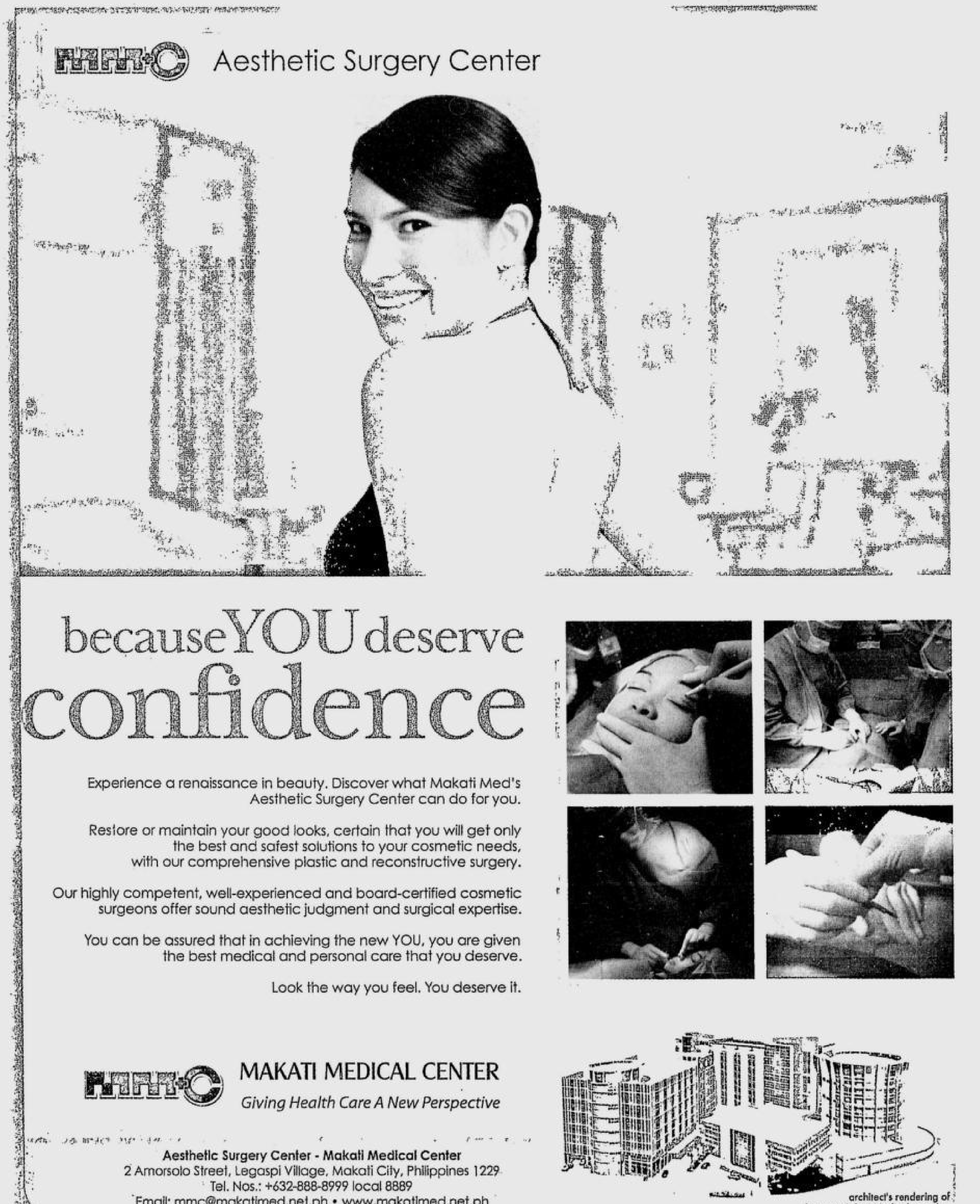
The good lady

"You can't put a good lady down," texted Peninsula Manila's head of PR, **Mariano "Garch" Garchitorena**. He was inviting friends to the Pen's reopening last Monday. "Good lady," of course, is the Pen. You didn't believe this "lady" had such an indestructible anterior until you saw how the APC had to ram it four times to break into the lobby. Such is the enduring architecture (partly designed by **Bobby Manosa**) of the Pen, which was built in the '70s.

People packed the Pen lobby last Monday. Among the guests were a Pen "institution," **Mila Magsaysay Valenzuela**, who for decades ran the hotel's PR and social events; the owners, **P.L.** and **Madeleine Lim**; **Irene Marcos Araneta**, and **Glenda Barretto**. In the restaurant also that night, the parents of GMA 7's **Vicky Morales Reyno** celebrated their wedding anniversary.

So it's business as usual, except that the occupancy is still down to 51 percent when it should be in the 90's. But who's complaining? Just a few days ago, the hotel stood the chance of being reduced into rubble. At 5 p.m. on

FASHION/ E4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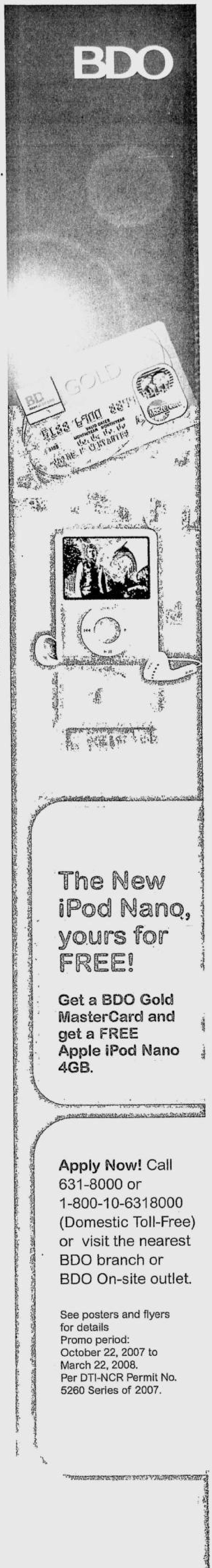
architect's rendering of
the new Makati Medical complex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for details
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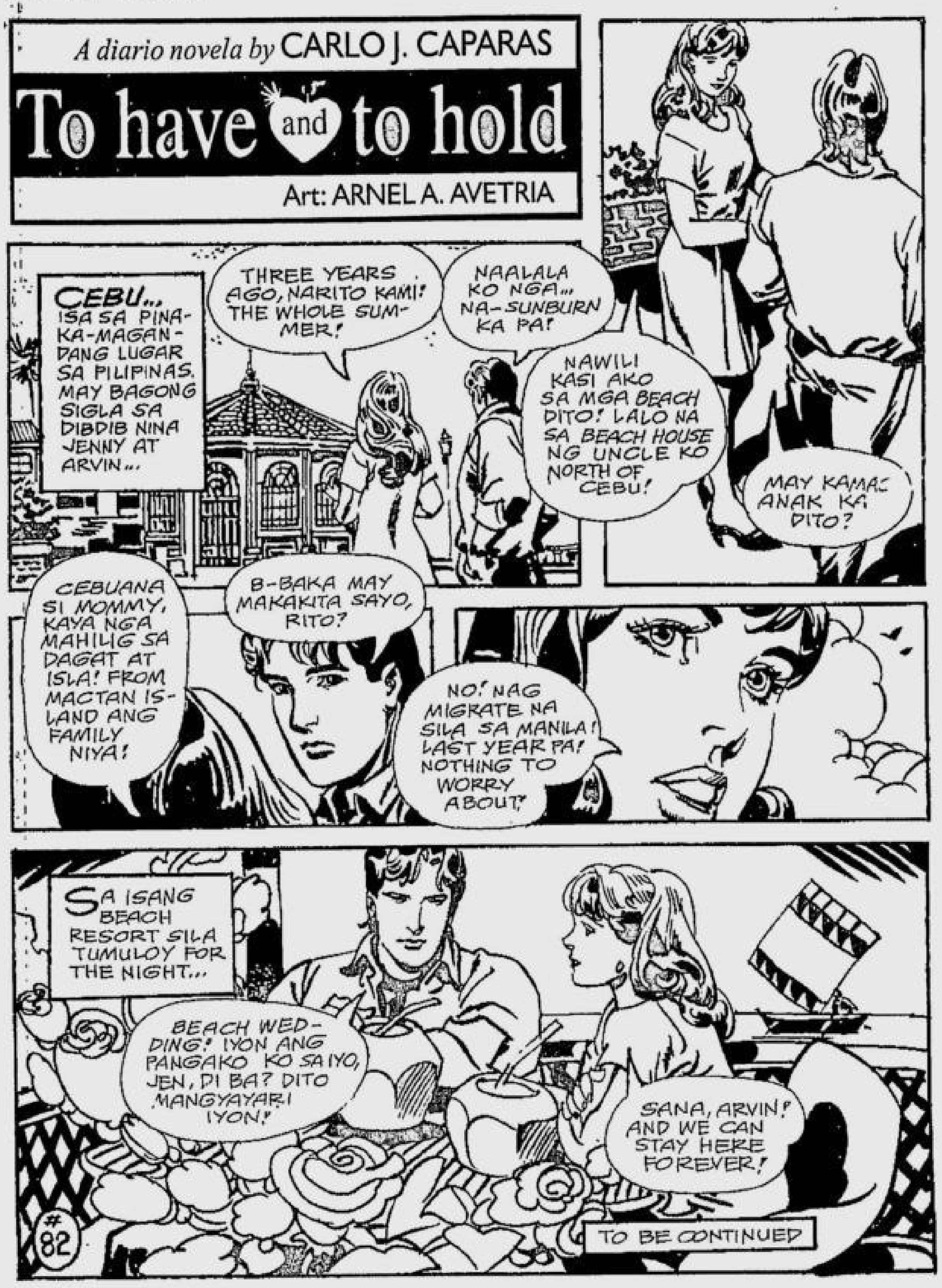
October 22, 2007 to
March 22, 2008.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.
5260 Series of 2007.

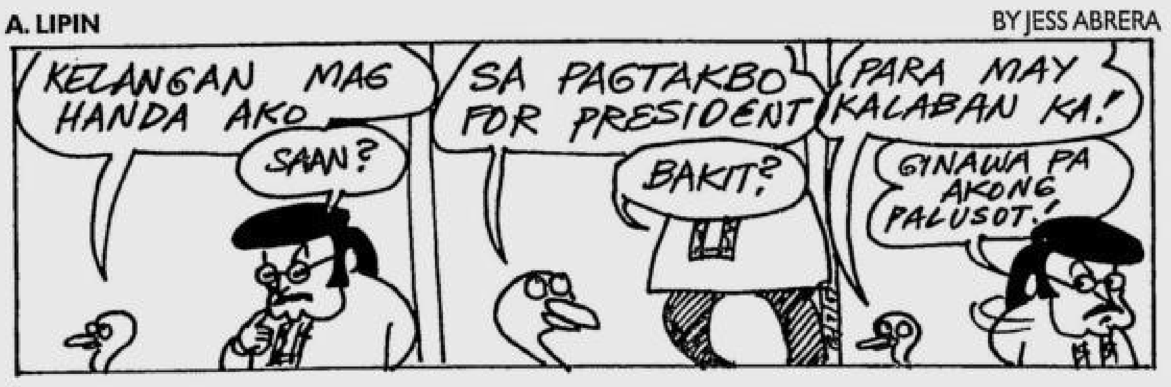
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

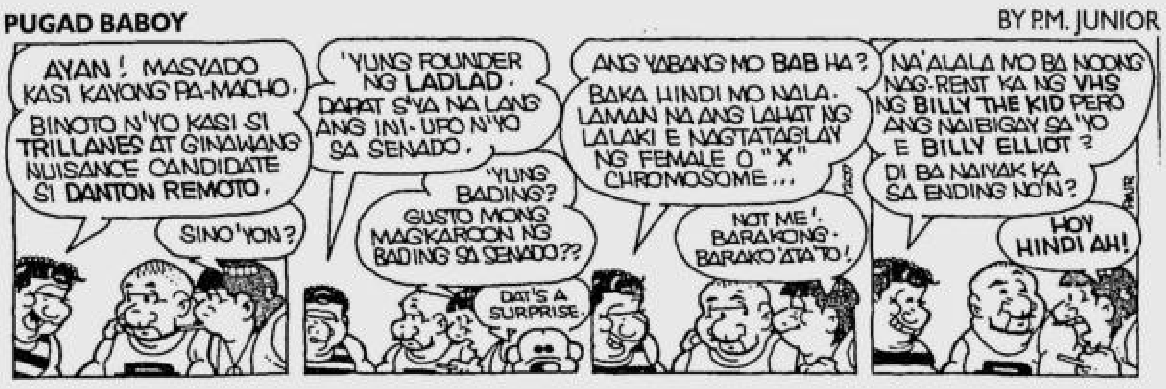
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


CEBU... ISA SA PINAKA-MAGANDANG LUGAR SA PILIPINAS. MAY BAGONG SIGLA SA DIBDIB NINA JENNY AT ARVIN...
THREE YEARS AGO, NARITO KAMI! THE WHOLE SUMMER!
NAALALA KO NGA... NA-SUNBURN KA PA!
NAWILI KASI AKO SA MGA BEACH DITO! LALO NA SA BEACH HOUSE NG UNCLE KO NORTH OF CEBU!
MAY KAMAG-ANAK KA DITO?
CEBUANA SI MOMMY, KAYA NGA MAHILIG SA DAGAT AT ISLA! FROM MACTAN ISLAND ANG FAMILY NIYA!
B-BAKA MAY MAKAKITA SAYO, RITO?
NO! NAG MIGRATE NA SILA SA MANILA! LAST YEAR PA! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
SA ISANG BEACH RESORT SILA TUMULOY FOR THE NIGHT...
BEACH WEDDING! IYON ANG PANGAKO KO SA IYO, JEN, DI BA? DITO MANGYAYARI IYON!
SANA, ARVIN! AND WE CAN STAY HERE FOREVER!
#82
TO BE CONTINUED

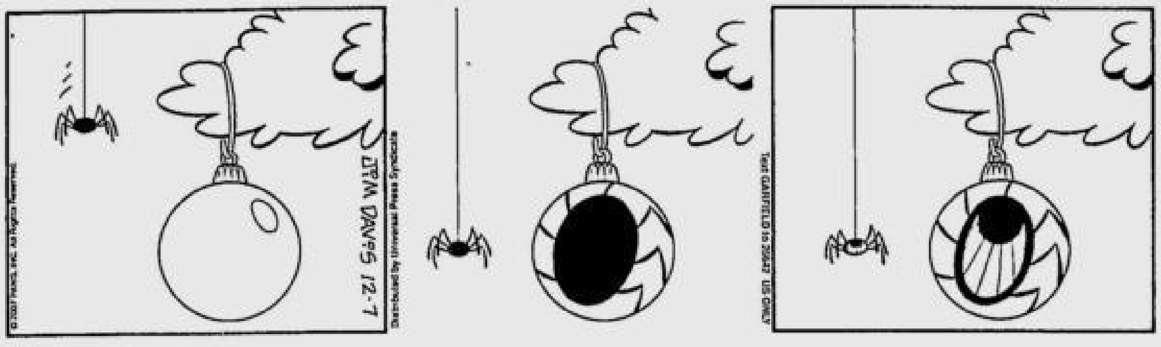
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MAG HANDA AKO
SAAN?
SA PAGTAKBO FOR PRESIDENT
BAKIT?
PARA MAY KALABAN KA!
GINAWA PA AKONG PALUSOT!

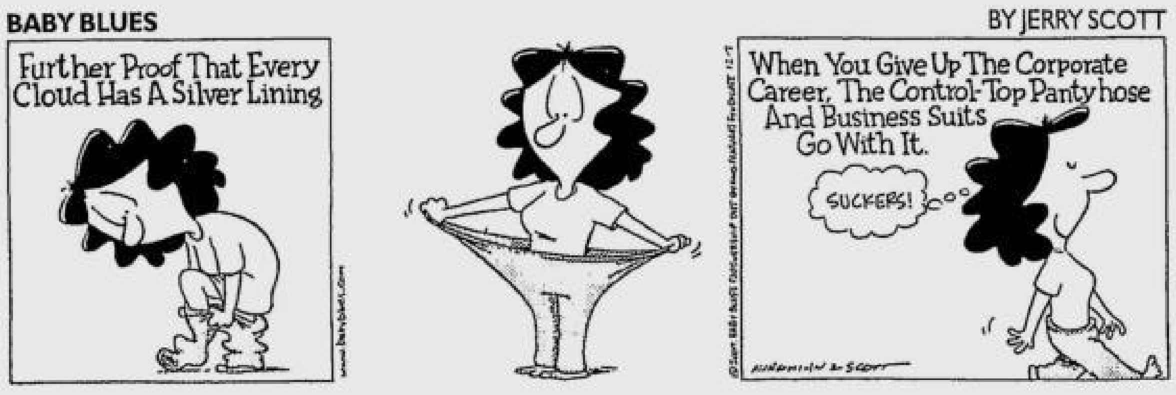
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AYAN! MASYADO KASI KAYONG PA-MACHO.
BINOTO N'YO KASI SI TRILLANES AT GINAWANG NUISANCE CANDIDATE SI DANTON REMOTO.
SINO 'YON?
'YUNG FOUNDER NG LADLAD. DAPAT S'YA NA LANG ANG INI-UPO N'YO SA SENADO.
'YUNG BADING? GUSTO MONG MAGKAROON NG BADING SA SENADO??
DAT'S A SURPRISE.
ANG YABANG MO BAB HA? BAKA HINDI MO NALALAMAN NA ANG LAHAT NG LALAKI E NAGTATAGLAY NG FEMALE O "X" CHROMOSOME...
NOT ME!. BARAKONG-BARAKO 'ATA 'TO!
NA'ALALA MO BA NOONG NAG-RENT KA NG VHS NG BILLY THE KID PERO ANG NAIBIGAY SA 'YO E BILLY ELLIOT? DI BA NAIYAK KA SA ENDING NO'N?
HOY HINDI AH!

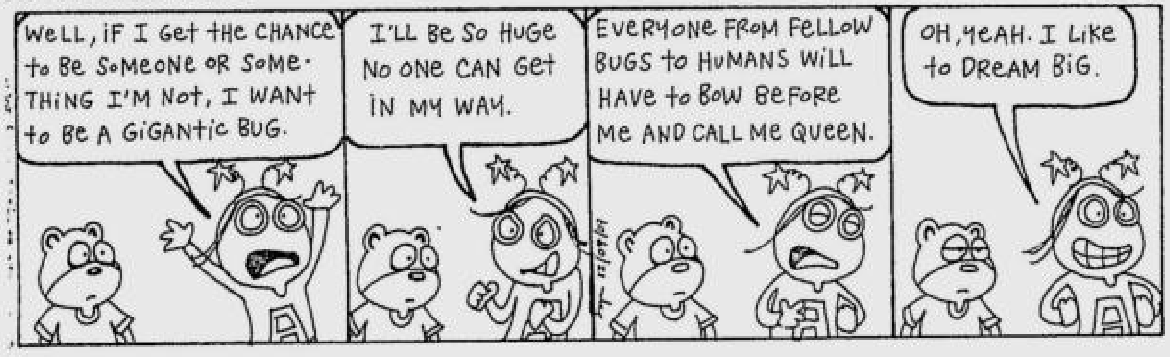
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


JIM DAVIS 12-7

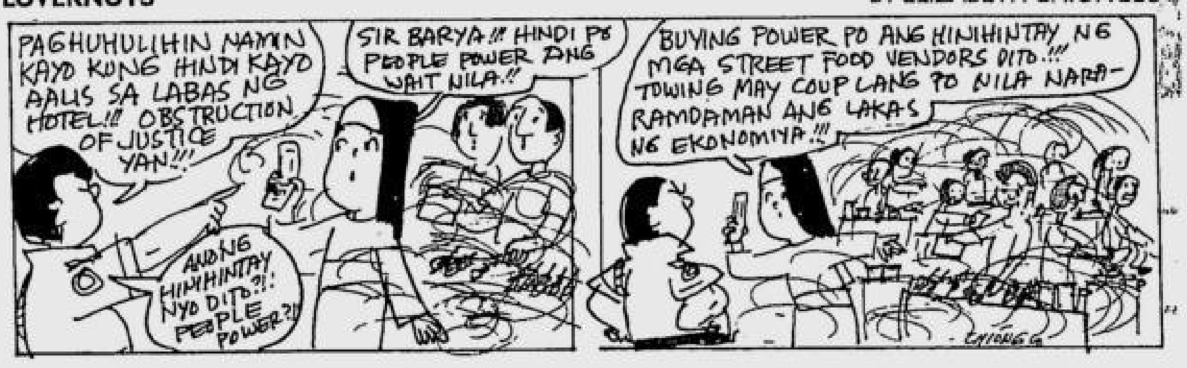
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


Further Proof That Every Cloud Has A Silver Lining
When You Give Up The Corporate Career, The Control-Top Pantyhose And Business Suits Go With It.
SUCKERS!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

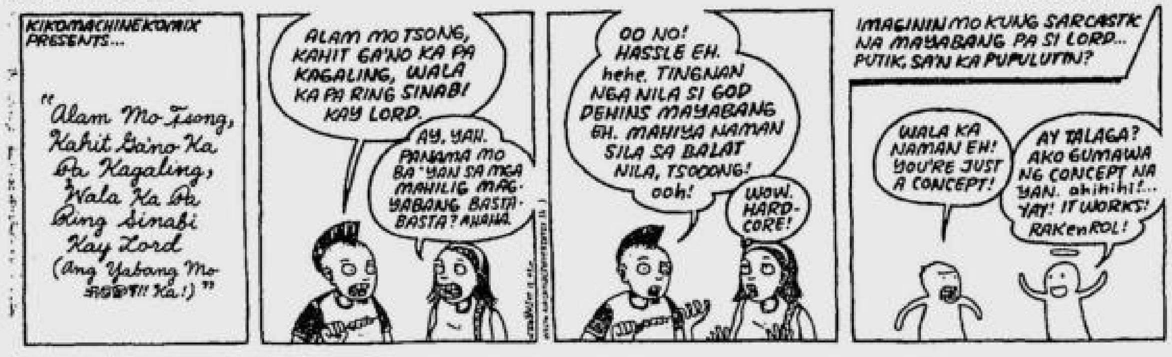
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, IF I GET THE CHANCE TO BE SOMEONE OR SOMETHING I'M NOT, I WANT TO BE A GIGANTIC BUG.
I'LL BE SO HUGE NO ONE CAN GET IN MY WAY.
EVERYONE FROM FELLOW BUGS TO HUMANS WILL HAVE TO BOW BEFORE ME AND CALL ME QUEEN.
OH, YEAH. I LIKE TO DREAM BIG.

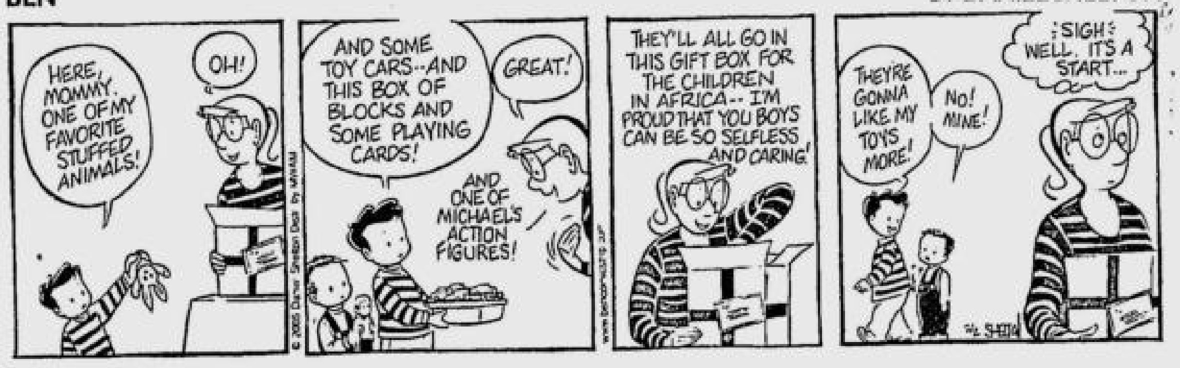
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PAGHUHULIHIN NAMIN KAYO KUNG HINDI KAYO AALIS SA LABAS NG HOTEL!!! OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE YAN!!!
SIR BARYA!!! HINDI PO PEOPLE POWER ANG WAIT NILA!!
ANONG HINIHINTAY NYO DITO?!! PEOPLE POWER?!!
BUYING POWER PO ANG HINIHINTAY NG MGA STREET FOOD VENDORS DITO!!! TUWING MAY COUP LANG PO NILA NARARAMDAMAN ANG LAKAS NG EKONOMIYA!!!
CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS...
"Alam Mo Tsong, Kahit Gaano Ka Pa Kagaling, Wala Ka Pa Ring Sinabi Kay Lord (Ang Yabang Mo Ha!! Ka!)"
ALAM MO TSONG, KAHIT GA'NO KA PA KAGALING, WALA KA PA RING SINABI KAY LORD.
AY, YAH. PANAMA MO BA 'YAN SA MGA MAHILIG MAG-YABANG BASTA-BASTA? AHAHA.
OO NO! HASSLE EH. hehe. TINGNAN NGA NILA SI GOD DENINS MAYABANG EH. MAHIYA NAMAN SILA SA BALAT NILA, TSOOONG! ooh!
WOW. HARD-CORE!
IMAGININ MO KUNG SARCASTIK NA MAYABANG PA SI LORD... PUTIK, SA'N KA PUPULUTIN?
WALA KA NAMAN EH! YOU'RE JUST A CONCEPT!
AY TALAGA? AKO GUMAWA NG CONCEPT NA YAN. ohihihi!... YAY! IT WORKS! RAKenROL!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE, MOMMY. ONE OF MY FAVORITE STUFFED ANIMALS!
OH!
AND SOME TOY CARS--AND THIS BOX OF BLOCKS AND SOME PLAYING CARDS!
GREAT!
AND ONE OF MICHAEL'S ACTION FIGURES!
THEY'LL ALL GO IN THIS GIFT BOX FOR THE CHILDREN IN AFRICA-- I'M PROUD THAT YOU BOYS CAN BE SO SELFLESS AND CARING!
THEY'RE GONNA LIKE MY TOYS MORE!
NO! MINE!
SIGH WELL, IT'S A START...

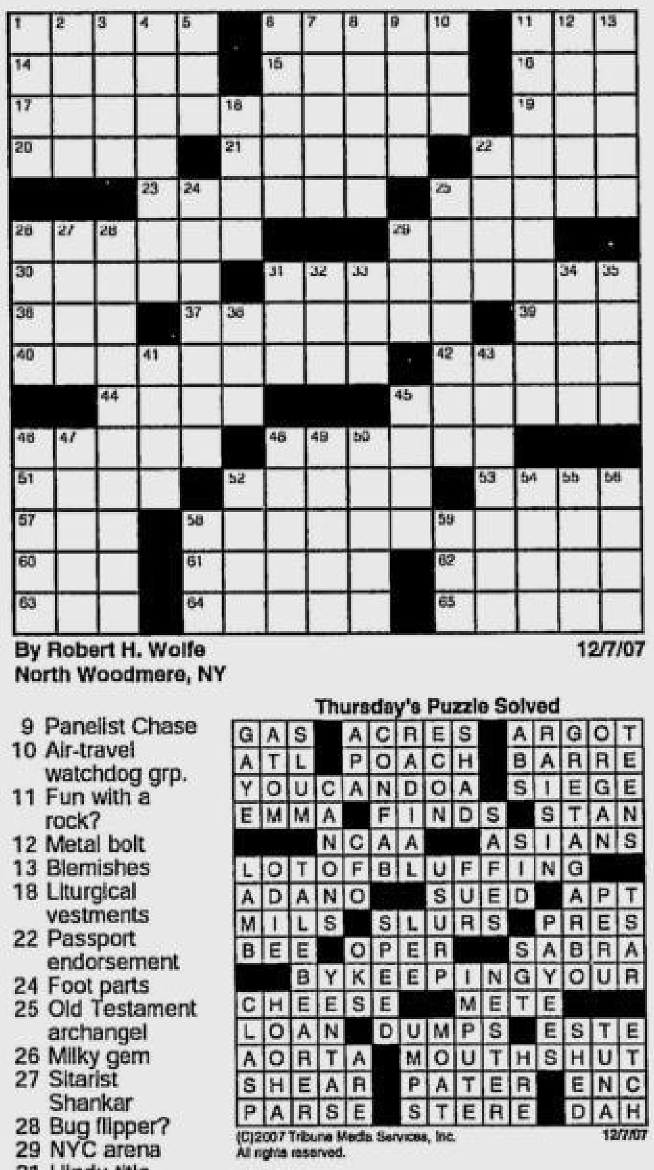
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Dark marten
6 UCLA part
11 RMN follower
14 Cacophonous
15 Walled city near Madrid
16 Zilch
17 Cold home of a dwarf?
19 One Gabor
20 Golfer Isao
21 "Freaks" star Hyams
22 Panorama
23 Itty-bitty bite
25 Wet sprays
26 Church instruments
29 Wide shot
30 Glass sections
31 Coastal paintings
36 Ms. Gardner
37 To the end
39 D-Day craft
40 Strewing trash
42 Humiliate
44 Overdrink
45 Swear by
46 Stoppers
48 Henner of "Taxi"
51 Nimbus
52 Column type
53 French state
57 "Newhart" setting
58 Wildebeest's mail?
60 Burnsian negative
61 Go along (with)
62 Rain not reaching the ground
63 Go wrong
64 Macho
65 Cancun mister

DOWN

1 Legendary tale
2 Florence's river
3 Volume
4 Thin layers
5 Afore
6 One of Moses' scouts
7 Use
8 Strong thread
9 Panelist Chase
10 Air-travel watchdog grp.
11 Fun with a rock?
12 Metal bolt
13 Blemishes
18 Liturgical vestments
22 Passport endorsement
24 Foot parts
25 Old Testament archangel
26 Milky gem
27 Sitarist Shankar
28 Bug flipper?
29 NYC arena
31 Hindu title
32 Uncountable years
33 Eighth mo.
34 Old gas
35 "Nana" star
38 Charlemagne's domain
41 Forum robe
43 Gray suit go-with?
45 Wedding shower?
46 "Common Sense" writer
47 Type of calendar
48 Grieve
49 Photographer Adams
50 Hoosier poet
52 Swenson of "Benson"
54 Sea swallow
55 Jason's ship
56 Winter Palace ruler
58 Pinup's leg
59 Boob tubes



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

12/7/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

G	A	S	■	A	C	R	E	S	■	A	R	G	O	T
A	T	L	■	P	O	A	C	H	■	B	A	R	R	E
Y	O	U	C	A	N	D	O	A	■	S	I	E	G	E
E	M	M	A	■	F	I	N	D	S	■	S	T	A	N
■	■	■	N	C	A	A	■	■	A	S	I	A	N	S
L	O	T	O	F	B	L	U	F	F	I	N	G	■	■
A	D	A	N	O	■	■	S	U	E	D	■	A	P	T
M	I	L	S	■	S	L	U	R	S	■	P	R	E	S
B	E	E	■	O	P	E	R	■	■	S	A	B	R	A
■	■	B	Y	K	E	E	P	I	N	G	Y	O	U	R
C	H	E	E	S	E	■	■	M	E	T	E	■	■	■
L	O	A	N	■	D	U	M	P	S	■	E	S	T	E
A	O	R	T	A	■	M	O	U	T	H	S	H	U	T
S	H	E	A	R	■	P	A	T	E	R	■	E	N	C
P	A	R	S	E	■	S	T	E	R	E	■	D	A	H

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12/7/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're highly individualistic, one could even say eccentric. You do things your own way; that's all there is to it. You have a vivid imagination and an intelligent mind. You work hard but you also need lots of time to play. You're a dreamer. You often try many jobs before you settle on something. The year ahead will focus strongly on partnerships and close friendships.

Birthdate of: Noam Chomsky, linguist/political writer; Tom Waits, musician; Ellen Burstyn, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Surprising events in foreign countries or distant places are likely. Travel delays are likely as well. Plans connected with education, schooling, publishing and media go sideways. Oops!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Unexpected news about a sudden financial change or shift in matters related to insurance, shared property, the bank or other people's property is likely. You have to think quickly now!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Partnerships and close relationships are undergoing surprising changes. Conflicts with partners are touchy. Personal freedom is very important now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Interruptions at work are almost guaranteed. Computer crashes, power outages, staff shortages and unexpected events definitely will change your daily routine. Stay light on your feet!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Parents should be extra vigilant with children now. This is an accident-prone time for your children or children you work with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be careful about home accidents or careless mistakes with electricity, technology and fire. Unexpected company might drop by. Expected company might not show. Your home scene is unpredictable today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day for your sign. Slow down. Take extra time to do everything. Think before you speak. Don't rush, and don't push the river.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Something surprising and unexpected might affect your finances and your possessions today. Check your bank account. Keep your receipts. Pay your bills.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your everyday routine will be disrupted today. Allow extra time for everything. Your day is not going to go as planned, so eat a good breakfast.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have a strong need for freedom today. In particular, you want to be free of restrictions related to large institutions or the government. Don't do anything rash. Make sure you know what you're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Unexpected news about a friend or a group might surprise you today. Or you might meet someone who is bizarre, unorthodox or very different from you today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be patient with authority figures today. It's easy to lose your temper or do something you will later regret. Keep your cool. Be patient so that you can do things on your terms, Don't just react.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

7				2				
	3				6	4	1	
		6			9		2	
						1	6	
9								5
	2	3						
	6		4			3		
	1	9	2				5	
				9				4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

12/07

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	6	5	9	8	2	4	3	1
8	2	4	3	1	7	9	5	6
1	9	3	4	5	6	8	7	2
4	5	6	7	2	9	3	1	8
2	3	7	1	4	8	6	9	5
9	8	1	5	6	3	2	4	7
6	4	9	2	7	1	5	8	3
5	7	2	8	3	4	1	6	9
3	1	8	6	9	5	7	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

Making fashionable statements

WHATEVER! IS A UNIQUE COLLECTION of fun graphic and statement shirts for young fashionistas who go for playful and affordable tees with a pop-culture appeal.

It is exclusively available at all Robinsons Department Store (RDS) branches.

Women can choose from tees printed with sayings that express their punk, rock or metal style; pop-art themes or icons. Others carry messages like "Save the Earth… it's the only planet with chocolate."

Babydoll tops with witty words and phrases and sentences are sure to be hits anywhere the wearer goes.

Other items have slogans, retro graphics, vintage ads, delightful drawings or charming characters in a full range of colors, sizes and themes that are entertaining and humorous.

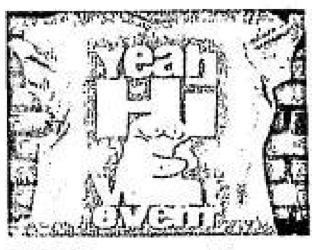
Whatever! shirts are great for your everyday wardrobe. Simply pair them with your favorite denims, cargo pants or shorts.

So show off your unique and individual style in these trendy T-shirts.

Let others know what is on your mind through your fashion statement. Be your own billboard with Whatever! shirts.

Check them out at the RDS branch nearest you.

BE YOUR own billboard.



GREAT to wear with your favorite denim, cargo pants or shorts.

SAVE EARTH
IT'S THE ONLY PLANET WITH CHOCOLATE

CHOOSE your (fashion) statement.

Obey ME
You'll be happier

WHATEVER! shirts have cute and fun messages.

Kitaro Party Starters

LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!

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All sashimi P1,200

samurai P750

shogun P850

All Maki P650

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Valid until December 31, 2007
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GUMBO
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Valid until December 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2915, Series of 2007

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For a minimum purchase of Php750
or
FREE Leche Flan
For 2 for a minimum purchase of Php500
Valid until January 31, 2008
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5352, Series of 2007

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For a minimum purchase of Php750
• Choice of either one of three flavors
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FREE Pizza
Upon purchase of either Large or Party, Thin or Thick Crust Pizza and a Pitcher of Iced Tea or Lemonade
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• Choice of Hawaiian Delight or Pepperoni
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See tent cards for details.

AIG PhilAm

Fashion reality TV winners suffer from reality

From page E1

that stand-off day, when police and troops launched their assault on the rebels, the Pen executives, led by general manager **David Batchelor** and **Noel Silva**, walked out the back door, after having sent off to safety the rest of the hotel guests and staff.

Was he scared during those cliffhanger moments, we asked Garch. It was sheer adrenalin, he said, as they prepared to move guests and staff. "And besides you know Filipinos don't really kill. We don't shed blood," he said.

While the door remains boarded up (it will take weeks to restore it), the two lions guarding the entrance are at least intact. In our lifestyle trivia book, one of those lions (is it the right or the left?) is, uh, a "historic" landmark. It was there, many years ago, at 5 in the morning, that our good friend **Louie Cruz**—how shall we say it?—let his bladder burst deliberately in a moment of drunkenness. That was the talk of Manila for some time, so that last week, it wasn't surprising that as friends watched the APC attack, one of them gasped: "Oh no, they're gonna hit Louie's lion."

They didn't. But still, the "good lady" has seen quite a lot in her time.

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Pat Daza
TV Host / Media Executive
BEFORE AFTER

"Xando fits my needs and my lifestyle."
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Joubert Yao
Operations Executive
BEFORE AFTER

Lorn[illegible]ino
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Boy Abunda
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Kris Aquino
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KAMAYAN & SAISAKI Included
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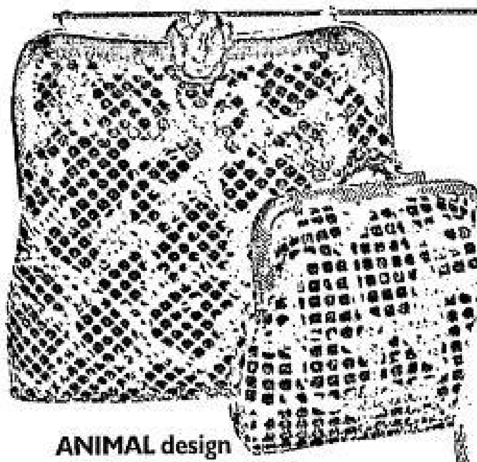
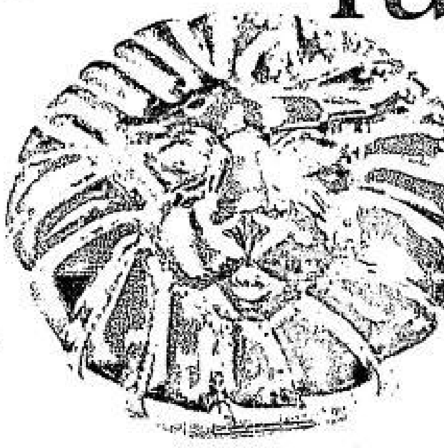
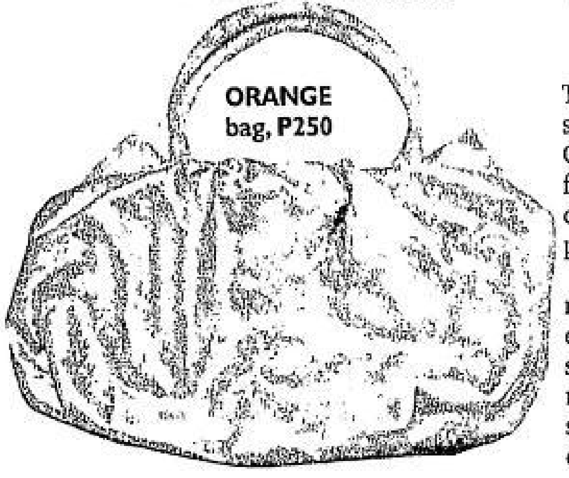

ANIMAL design evening bag set, P500

SUEDE bag, P250

Shopping has never been this much fun

GOLD and silver evening bag, P250


LION-faced evening bag, P250


ORANGE bag, P250

THE BEST BUYS THIS CHRISTMAS season are at the best bazaar in town, the Club Fun Park at the Glorietta 3 Park (in front of Shangri-La Hotel) where retailers displaced by the recent explosion are temporarily selling, along with many others.

Now open daily, day and night, the tent market sells all kinds of items to thrill everyone, from fashionistas on the prowl for second-hand branded bags to home decorators hunting for unusual finds. Items for sale include bags, shoes, clothes, Christmas decor, accessories and paintings.

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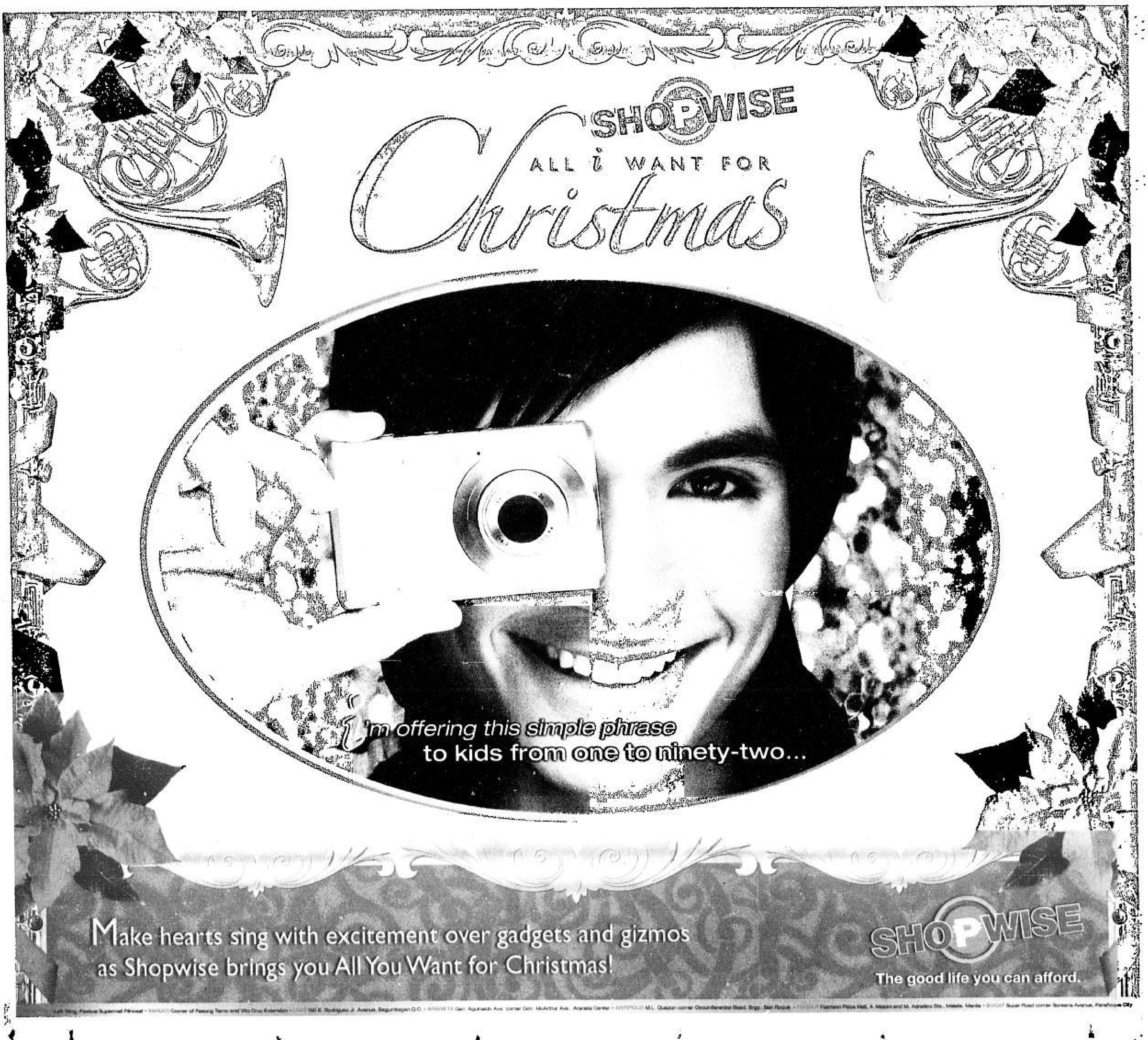
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i'm offering this simple phrase
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Make hearts sing with excitement over gadgets and gizmos as Shopwise brings you All You Want for Christmas!

SHOPWISE
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NOKIA'S brilliant general manager William Hamilton-Whyte with fiancee, French beauty Angelique Repapis

NIKKI Gil flanked by Nokia marketing manager Mitch So and corporate communications manager Nikka Abes

GINGGOY and Jill Lotho

NOKIA'S Rhomel Marcojos and Globe's Leah de Guzman

STELLA Valdez, Cricri Aro and Ronald Capito

TOWN & Country's Mia Borromeo, Anne Marie Saguil and Karen Santos

JOJI Dingcong with Maurice Arcache (as in *moi*) and French Embassy's Carolle Lucas

NOKIA marketing head Sandeep Khanna with Rico Blanco

ROBBY Carmona and Marie Claire's Myrza Sison

TATLER'S Anton San Diego and Pepper Teehankee

Night of great listening and great grooves

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE NIGHT STARTED WITH AN excellent small dinner at the chic Red resto of Shangri-La Makati, beautifully hosted by Nokia's brilliant Philippine general manager, **William Hamilton-Whyte,** and statuesque French beauty **Angelique Repapis.**

The night, however, peaked at the huge A.Venue Hall in Makati, where Nokia launched the first Filipino DJ group, Local//:e!, through its fab music player, the awesome Nokia 5310 XpressMusic, no less, dahlings.

This event also launched Local//:e!'s second compilation, featuring collaborations between DJs and established and up-and-coming rock artists.

The CD has contributions from electronica stalwarts **Adrian Cuenca** and **Brian Cua,** as well as classically trained violinist **Jay Cayuca** and world music exponent **Joey Ayala,** among others.

In his welcome speech, Whyte said, "We are proud to have partnered with an amazing and talented group of musicians for the launch of our new music product, the Nokia 5310 XpressMusic. Nokia has been the pioneering force behind mobile music technology. Now with the Nokia 5310 XpressMusic, we continue Nokia's vision of being able to share music across all genres and music preferences."

Imagine, *palanggas,* a mobile music player offering up to 18 hours of music playback. It has dedicated music keys to conveniently play back tracks and browse album art. It also has an in-box 1GB microSD card expandable up to 4GB, a memory for up to 3,000 awesome songs in any format. It's big on music but small in size: That's what this fantastic new Nokia 5310 XpressMusic is all about, dahlings.

During the launch, Local//:e! DJs mixed and played their tracks, and kept the guests totally dancing like forever. Gorgeous women were dancing on several platforms around the gigantic venue.

Needless to say, we were absolutely pleased with the tremendous success of this awesome world-class event. Congratulations to Whyte, Nokia corporate communications manager **Nikka Abes,** product manager **Corinne Risos,** marketing head **Sandeep Khanna,** marketing manager **Mitch So,** product marketing head **Rhomel Marcojos,** and Globe's **Leah de Guzman.**

Now, dahlings, isn't great fun what Nokia is all about? *N'est ces pas!* (as in, *di bala*)

Kiehl's in Manila finally

After years of waiting for the right place and the right time, Kiehl's Since 1851 finally rolled out the red carpet to welcome all Kiehl's followers and users, dahlings, into its home in *Manille!*

Kiehl's, together with Globe and HSBC, celebrated its Manila opening with over 500 hotshot invitees who brought glamour to the Greenbelt 5 Fashion and Lifestyle Center.

Jetting in from the US were **Elizabeth Lamont,** Kiehl's vice president for international development; **Charlotte Adjchavanich,** VP for global communications; and **Joanna Lee,** international development head of Asia.

It was a magnificent New York-inspired evening with the Manila Symphony Orchestra and singer **Skarlet** playing for the invitees.

The big moment was the unveiling of the store. It was met with loud cheers as Kiehl's fans rushed in and shopped till they dropped. Needless to say, they grabbed Kiehl's bestsellers from the shelves faster than you could bat an eyelash, dahlings.

Proceeds of the launch were donated completely to top actor **Diether Ocampo**'s K.I.D.S. Foundation, the first beneficiary of the brand's dynamic plan, according to Kiehl's officials, "to give back to the community as children are a key cause for the brand worldwide."

It was the night when New York met Cosmo *Manille,* and everyone celebrated in true Kiehl's fashion, sipping 3Vodka, Finlandia, Jagermeister and Paraiso cocktails from Zen Restaurant.

Overall, *palanggas,* the hottest word was "Finally!"

Versace Occhiali night

Four gorgeous models wore the new eye-catching line of Versace eyewear in a fashion show at Nuvo recently.

Lal Gopwani of Branded Lifestyle, local distributor of Versace eyewear, also celebrated his birthday on the same night.

Aquarela serenaded the audience with its smooth Latin beat, dahlings. Gorgeous faces from the modeling industry reigned supreme in the makeshift dance floor. It was a hot night that would be hard to match.

During the show, a sexy Brazilian explorer was hunted by three tiger-clad supermodels who caged him in a golden-brass cell, *palanggas.*

The fashion show was co-presented by Tilka, which took care of the interiors during the event; Gold's Gym; Mercator, which provided the sexy tiger suits for the models; Shu Uemura; Stolichnaya, which provided the overflowing martini and vodka cocktail; and Thinline Advertising.

JOY Zapanta-del Rosario and Crickette Tantoco

BRANDED Lifestyle's Devi Leano with Thinline's cyber-smart president Frank Briones and gorgeous Joy Hendrikson

THINLINE'S Mac Lubaczewski with Veronica Mendez, Helena Belmonte and Tara Tambunting

DINKY Santos, Trish Villanueva, Vicki de Leon and Miguel Villanueva

MODELS Camila Batin and Alfredo with Mercator's Jonas Gaffud

GLORIA Diaz and gorgeous daughter Isabel

LORD Ancheta, Mark Jentes and Pazzy Navarro

LUCILLE Carlos, Mary Ann Tinio and Nick Locsin

ALYANA (center) with her parents Liezl and Albert Martinez

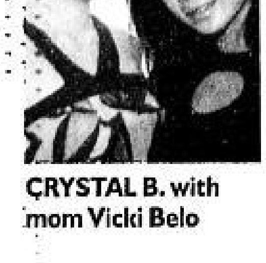
Globe
Kiehl's
HS

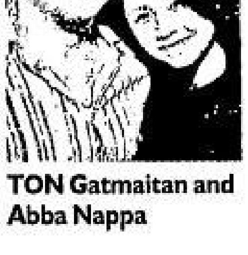
Kiehl's
SINCE 1851
PAY TO THE ORDER OF K.I.D.S. Foundation P 100,000.00
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
FOR Helping Children Realize Their Dreams Today
FROM Your Friends at Kiehl's

CYNTHIA Mangahas, Diether Ocampo, Elizabeth Lamont, Christopher Rourke, Luc-Olivier Marquet

DAPHNE Oseña-Paez, Josephine del Gallego and Cory Quirino

VERSACE Occhiali's living mannequins


CRYSTAL B. with mom Vicki Belo


TON Gatmaitan and Abba Nappa

Kiehl's
HSBC
SHEENA Dy, Charlotte Adjchavanich, Joanna Lee, Tina Tinio, Anya Cajucom, Georgina Teng, Jennifer Pascual and Gabby Katigbak

These sandals make you walk tall

RIDER SANDALS COME IN vibrant colors and are ergonomically constructed.

Rider sandals are developed with distinct technologies such as the exclusive Flexpand materials and Aerogel cushioning system, which deliver maximum comfort and wearability.

The textured EVA insoles offer optimum support and grip while the fully adjustable straps allow the shoe's upper area to mold to the foot.

The Arch-Fit contoured sole provides extra stability and comfort. The shoe's waterproof materials feature an antimicrobial treatment which offers easier maintenance and quicker dry time.

Inspired by nature, Rider's sandals are available in a wide offering of styles and colors for men, women, children and infants. From casual to sporty, the line offers an array of sandals, thongs and flip-flops.

Rider sandals are manufactured by Grendene S.A. Established in 1971. Grendene is a leader in the Brazilian market.

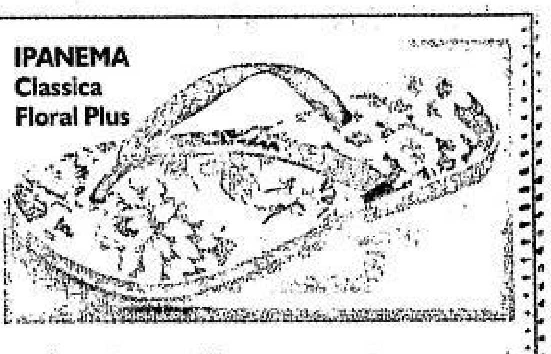
Visit Rider outlets located at Sports Central (SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint, SM Mall of Asia), The Athlete's Foot (Alabang Town Center, Glorietta, Galleria, Ermita, Sta. Lucia), Planet Sports (TriNoma, Power Plant Rockwell), Olympic Village (TriNoma, Alabang Town Center, Galleria, Sta. Lucia).

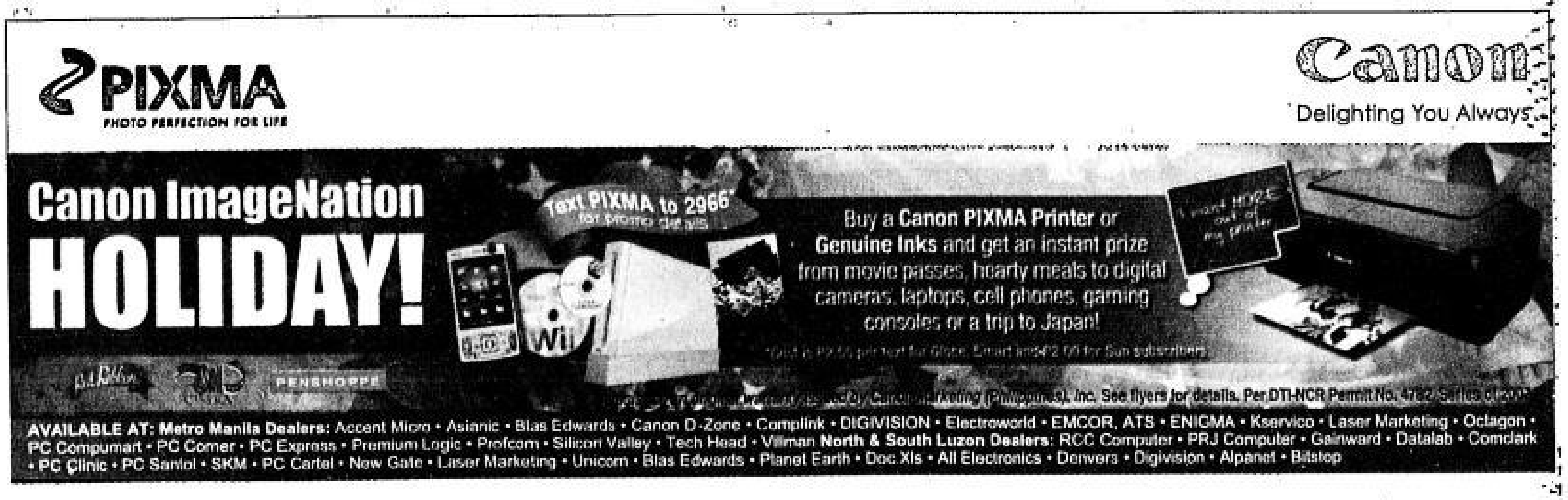
Floral classics for the holidays

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, IT WILL ALL be flowers for Ipanema sandals. Meet friends in gold-strapped Classica Floral Plus or slip into Solar Romantica. Ipanema Bliss is suitable for long walks or a leisurely stroll on the beach. Look elegant in Sola Envolvente or go for something romantic with Anatomica Romantic.

Check out the latest Ipanema styles at SM Department Stores, The Landmark, Shoe Salon, Celine, Regatta, Confetti, Styletto, Philosophy, Crossings, Traffic, Planet Sports and Golf King.

IPANEMA Classica Floral Plus





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Bag-A-Cruise with Metrobank Credit Cards!

Shop with your Metrobank Credit Card, hop onboard, and bag a chance to embark on a voyage beyond your wildest dreams! This season, shop with your Metrobank Credit Card and not only can you get a free limited edition stylish bag but you might also just find yourself cruising around the world!

With Metrobank Card Corporation's newest promo, trekking the globe on a cruise isn't such a far-fetched reality. Bask in the luxury of an Asian cruise - a rich tapestry of ancient traditions and breathtaking sights. Climb aboard and discover this fascinating region from cosmopolitan Singapore to the temples and palaces of Bangkok to the colonial architecture of Malaysia. Discover the magic of the Mediterranean and revel in the warmth and beauty of the Mediterranean's coastline and countryside while relishing the magnificence of Italy, Sicily, Greece, and Turkey.

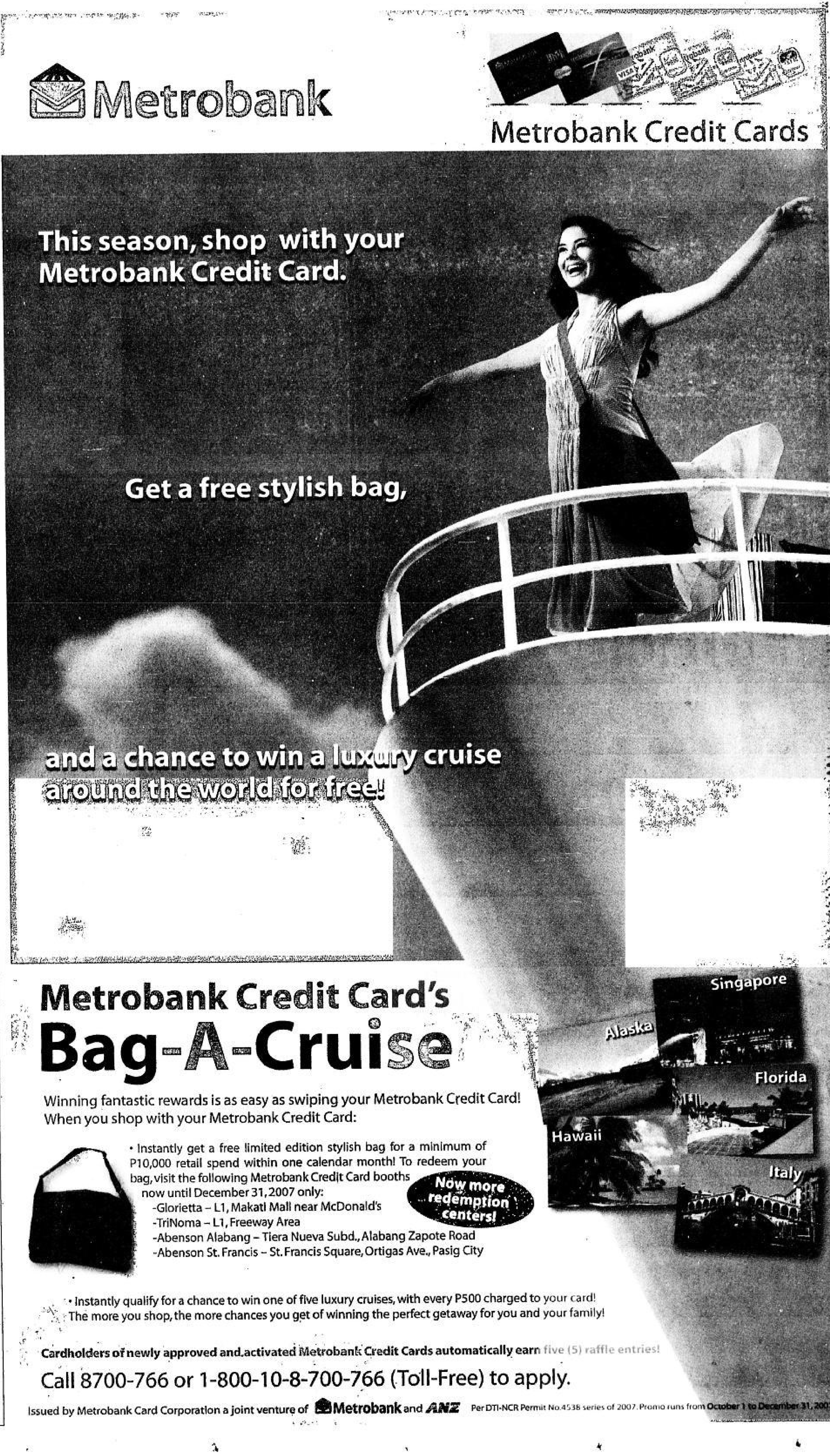
Take a scenic artic adventure on an Alaskan cruise. Experience the rugged beauty, magnificent wildlife, and phenomenal fishing in Alaska. Longing for that sunny getaway? Live it up while cruising along the Bahamas and Florida's welcoming beaches while touring its other exotic destinations. Breathe deep the sweet and musky scents of the Hawaiian tropics and enjoy its scenic beauty, dramatic volcanoes, Polynesian heritage, and of course, its fabulous beaches.

Sound too good to be true? Joining is easy! Every P500 accumulated valid spend within the promo period using your Metrobank Credit Card entitles you a single raffle entry. Also, Metrobank credit cardholders instantly get a free limited edition stylish bag for a minimum of P10,000 retail spend within one calendar month!

To make redemption easier, Metrobank Credit Card booths will be present in major malls from now until December. This month, visit Robinson's Galleria, Ermita or Cebu to claim your free limited edition stylish bag.

Winning fantastic rewards is as easy as swiping your Metrobank Credit Card! Promo runs from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

Bag-A-Cruise with Metrobank Credit Card now!



Metrobank

Metrobank Credit Cards

This season, shop with your Metrobank Credit Card.

Get a free stylish bag,

and a chance to win a luxury cruise around the world for free!

Metrobank Credit Card's
Bag-A-Cruise

Singapore
Alaska
Florida
Hawaii
Italy

Winning fantastic rewards is as easy as swiping your Metrobank Credit Card!
When you shop with your Metrobank Credit Card:

- Instantly get a free limited edition stylish bag for a minimum of P10,000 retail spend within one calendar month! To redeem your bag, visit the following Metrobank Credit Card booths now until December 31, 2007 only:
  - -Glorietta – L1, Makati Mall near McDonald's
  - -TriNoma – L1, Freeway Area
  - -Abenson Alabang – Tiera Nueva Subd., Alabang Zapote Road
  - -Abenson St. Francis – St. Francis Square, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City

Now more redemption centers!

- Instantly qualify for a chance to win one of five luxury cruises, with every P500 charged to your card! The more you shop, the more chances you get of winning the perfect getaway for you and your family!

Cardholders of newly approved and activated Metrobank Credit Cards automatically earn five (5) raffle entries!

Call 8700-766 or 1-800-10-8-700-766 (Toll-Free) to apply.

Issued by Metrobank Card Corporation a joint venture of Metrobank and ANZ Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4538 series of 2007. Promo runs from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

Season for sheen and shine

WINE Patent Leather studded T-strap Heels

TOP CLOTHING BRAND KENNETH COLE NEW York looks to the sexy '80s and the minimalist '90s as inspiration for its newest collection.

The look is classic Kenneth Cole: sleek, minimal, modern. The collection invests heavily in double layering, silver for sheen, color blocking for that peek of color under a pocket flap, and overprinting by using sweater and knits as canvases for all-over garment prints, sprays and dye effects.

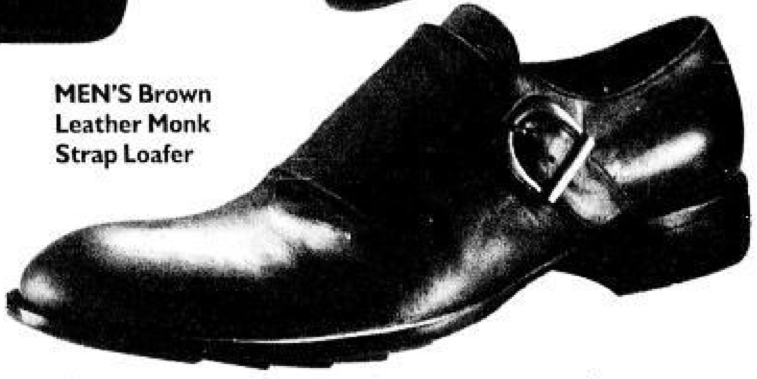
Modern metallic silver is used in everything from suits to knitwear. Sheen and shine also radiate in sateen and sharkskin suitings and glazes shirts to truly reflect the season's dressy feel.

WOMEN'S Black Nylon with Pewter Metallic Leather Tote

The accessories have also gone retro, with weighty and slender pieces in clean shapes and eye-popping colors, plus 18K gold shiny pieces.

In the Philippines, Kenneth Cole New York is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. (SSI) and located in Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt 3, Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Mall of Asia, Bonifacio High Street and TriNoMa.

BLACK Satin Open-Toe Strappy Pump with Stud

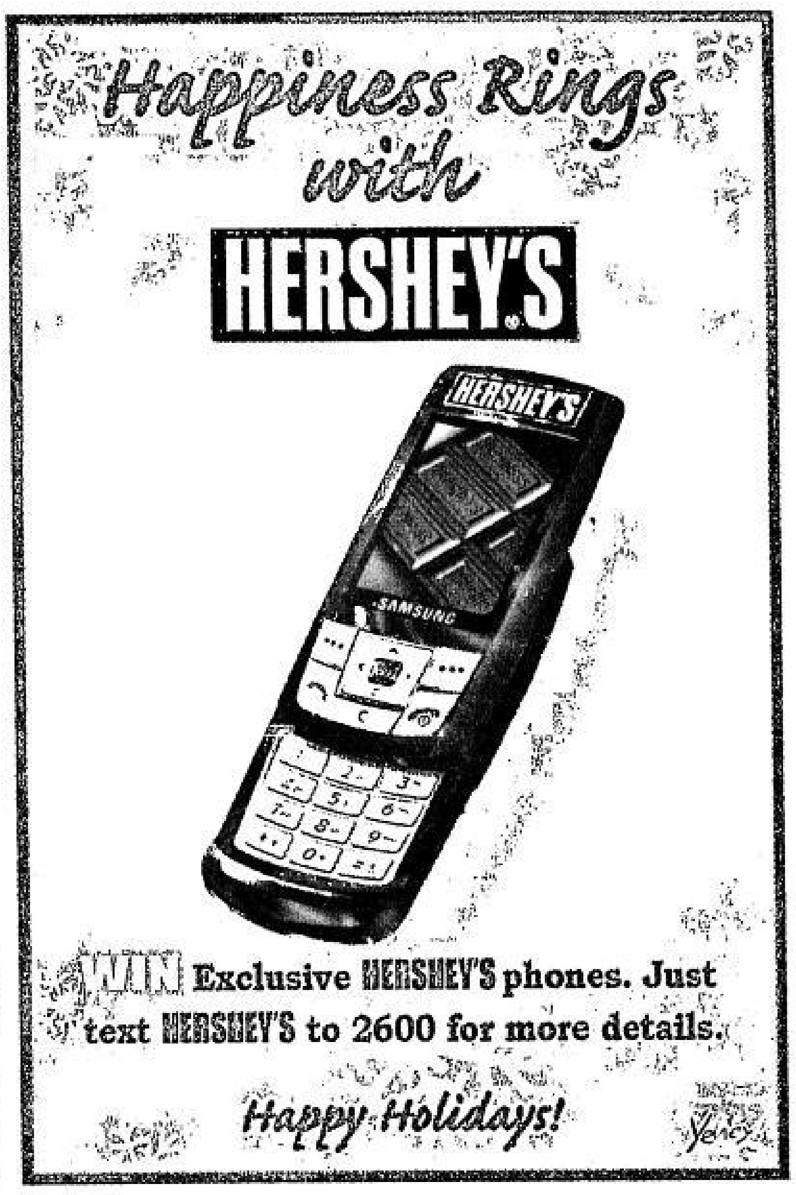


MEN'S Brown Leather Monk Strap Loafer

Gifts for all occasions.

Gift Registry @ SM
DEPARTMENT STORE

We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE


Happiness Rings with
HERSHEY'S
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WIN Exclusive HERSHEY'S phones. Just text HERSHEY'S to 2600 for more details.
Happy Holidays!

Duty-free beauty booty

THE BEAUTY WALK AT Duty Free Fiesta Mall launches Faces, a section that carries local and international beauty, health, wellness and personal care brands. Aside from the customary scents and lotions, this specialty section supplies hair care, skincare, nail care, spa care and health care products.

A selection of personal care products for infants and children are available right alongside must-haves for the men as well. There are products for young skin, mature skin and even problem skin.

The next time you find yourself coming home from a trip out of the country, drop by Beauty Walk's Faces at Duty Free Philippines' Fiesta Mall for all your personal care needs.

Beauty junkies will also be thrilled to discover that Duty Free's Health & Beauty section has had a makeover. Cult brands like Jurlique, Acca Kappa, L'Occitane and Shu Uemura are now available at duty-free prices.

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Contributing Editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

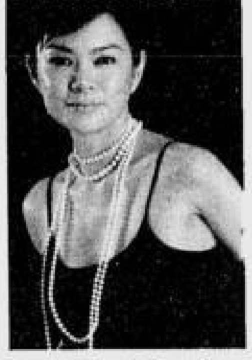
FASHION

Apathy is out of fashion!

The Metrowear show displayed forward-looking fashion without the designers sacrificing personality and style philosophy

Photos by Patrick Uy

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

APATHY IS OUT OF FASHION! IT'S TIME to show that we care, not just about hemlines and silhouettes, but about the general state of our nation and environment. Last week's failed uprising is just another symptom of everything that's wrong with our beloved nation. And although we don't necessarily agree with certain methods of partisan factions, we have to start listening and trying to make a difference in our own little way.

It's exhausting to deal with all the corruption that abounds in our land. It exists in the lowest levels to the topmost branches of government. It's frustrating to watch all those in charge simply brush off and cover up allegations and scandals. We love our country but it is disheartening to see others use it and its people for personal gain.

Meanwhile, we go on writing about the latest fashions like everything is hunky-dory and perfect. We normally leave it to our emboldened newsmen, all of whom we admire and look up to, to jolt others into action by reporting on our country's current plight.

Sure, we all have our roles and duties in society but this week, allow us to stage our protest against corruption and corrupt officials by sending out our message through a plain black cover that echoes our grieving spirits: Apathy is out of Fashion! INQUIRER Fashion cares!

Back to business

Having said our piece, we go back to business by reporting on the latest trends previewed by designers from Manila and Cebu during the Metrowear show at the Rockwell Tent. Presented by Samsung and Metro magazine and directed by Jackie C. Aquino, the gala featured 20 designers who created sub-collections showing their forecasts for Spring/Summer 2008.

We felt that some designers didn't really focus on the task, as they showed heavy, somewhat bulky pieces that seemed more apt for the colder months. But we were pleased to note that around 85 percent of the collections were well-designed and well-made. More importantly, the designers who presented forecasts, managed to do so without sacrificing their personalities and design philosophies.

Rajo Laurel's easy, breezy yet chic and pretty eyelet pieces in white were clear winners and perfect for the coming hot summer months. We also loved Rhett Eala's Collezione pieces that were close to the body, simple yet tongue-in-cheek. His long black jersey dress with an imprint of the map of the Philippines was a crowd favorite. Patty Eustaquio's 1920s-inspired dresses were wearable yet ultra-stylish. It was a sheer delight to see her design femi-

APATHY/ G2

LACOSTE

un peu d'air sur terre

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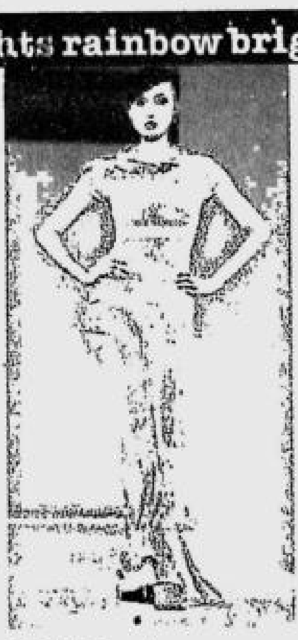
THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) · GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER · SM MALL OF ASIA

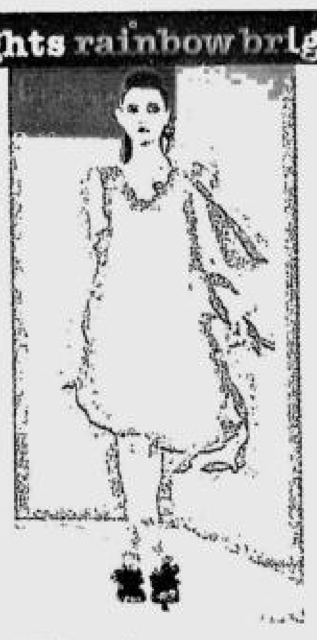
rainbow brights rainbow brights rainbow brights rainbow brights rainbow brights rainbow brights

RAJO Laurel


ARCY Gayatin

ANTONIO 'Jan' Garcia

JUN Escario


LZ Punzalan

not so basic black not so basic black not so basic black not so basic black not so

LORD Maturan

ITO Curata

PATRICE Ramos-Diaz

CARY Santiago

LOUIS Claparols

Apathy is out of fashion!

glam safari glam safari glam safari

PHILIP Rodriguez

VITTORIO Barba

RANDY Ortiz

From page G1

nine dresses that veered away from the edgy and deconstructed but still had her stamp of style.

Cebu's crowd-pleasers

Cebu designers Fern One (pronounced o-ne) and Cary Santiago were also crowd-pleasers, as they presented evening collections that were as different as night and day, but both equally impressive. One presented glam gowns dripping in glittering Swarovski crystals. Santiago, on the other hand, showed drop-dead gorgeous black gowns—with nary a shimmer—that showed just enough skin with the use of clever cut outs and faggoting. Santiago remains to be most everyone's favorite as he continues to evolve and surprise Manila's somewhat jaded audience.

Jun Escario, who is also from Cebu, wowed the crowd with his ultra-sexy and flowing chiffon gowns that were acid bright and vixen-like. Metro creative director Louis Espiritu said, "It is a joy that the designers from Cebu have immersed and are at par with Manila's finest. This goes to show that the level of talent anywhere in the Philippines is the same."

Espiritu also pointed out the most apparent trend that emerged from the evening's presentation. "One of the biggest trends was glam safari in different forms but all very modern and not overdone," he said.

The coloration veered towards earth tones, although black, white and grey remained a staple. There was also a smattering of eye-catching brights. Meanwhile, silhouettes were close to the body, possibly a reaction to the baby doll trend that has prevailed for many seasons.

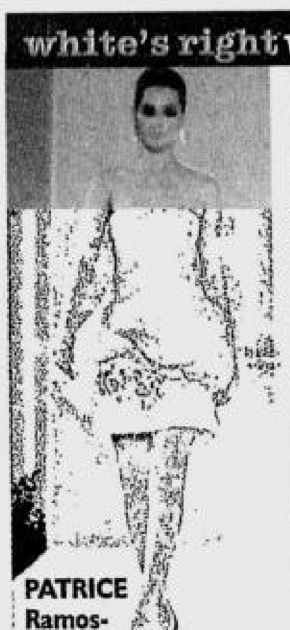
Considering that this was a Spring/Summer forecast, it was quite surprising to see a number of leather accents in the form of wide belts and cuffs. The stylish accessories didn't seem suited for the humid summer months but the designers pulled off the look, just the same.

Things are definitely looking up in the local fashion scene. Our designers are obviously doing their homework and presenting the best they have to offer.

Now if only some government officials would do the same... Remember, apathy is out of fashion! It's time to show that we care!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

white's right white's right white's

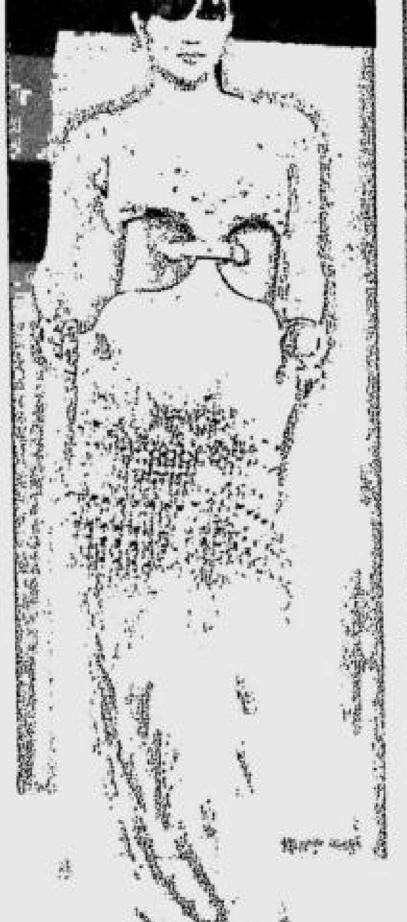

PATRICE Ramos-Diaz

TIPPI Ocampo

TONICHI Nocum

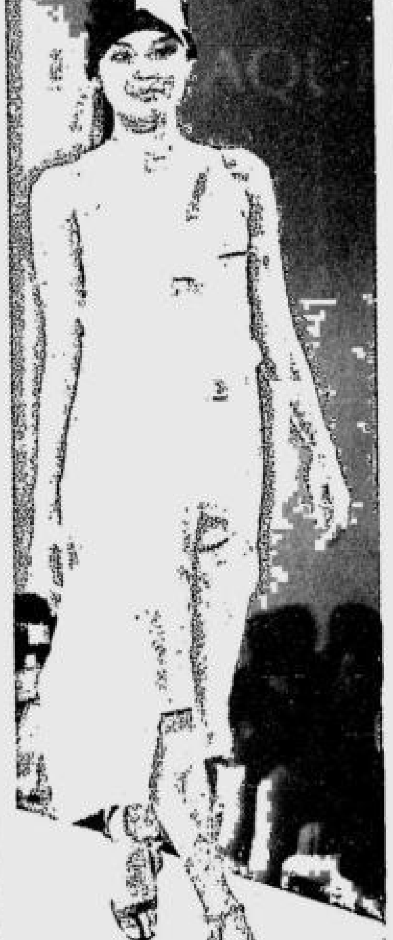
waisted waisted waisted waisted waisted waisted waisted

ITO Curata


FERN One

RANDY Ortiz

back to earth back to earth back to earth back to earth


PATTY Eustaquio

VEEJAY Floresca

ITO Curata

INQUIRER Fashion loves...

Rajo Laurel's chic and pretty white eyelet creations

Rhett Eala's easy yet stylish pieces, especially his long black dress with an imprint of the Philippine map!

Patty Eustaquio's feminine '20s-inspired dresses

Fern One's bejeweled showstoppers

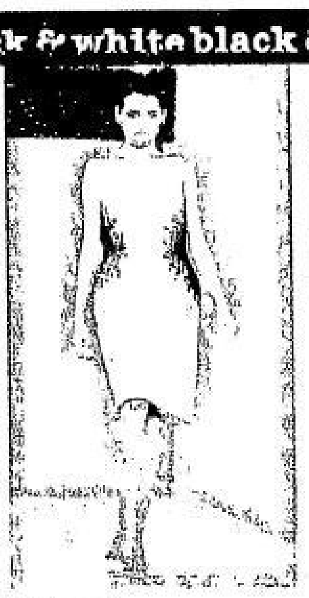
Jun Escario's flowing, acid bright and vixen-like gowns

Cary Santiago's drop-dead gorgeous black gowns

bla hite black & white black & white black & white black & white black &

RHETT Eala

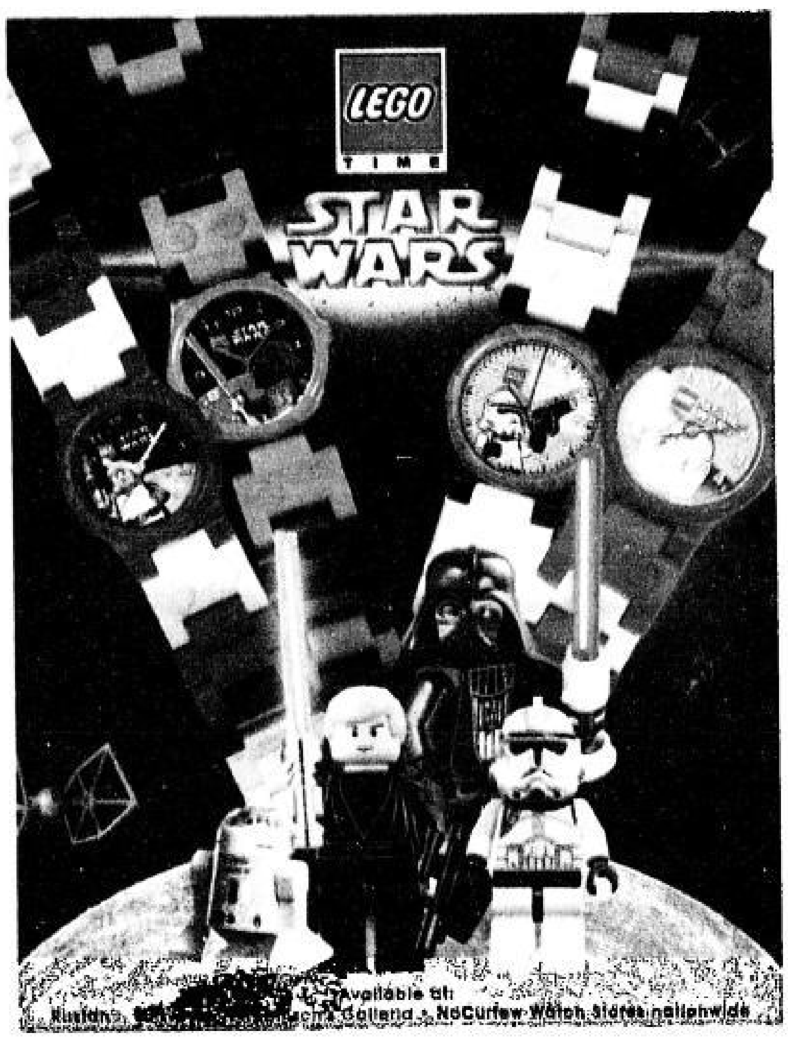
TONICHI Nocum



JC Buendia

RHETT Eala

PHILIP Rodriguez



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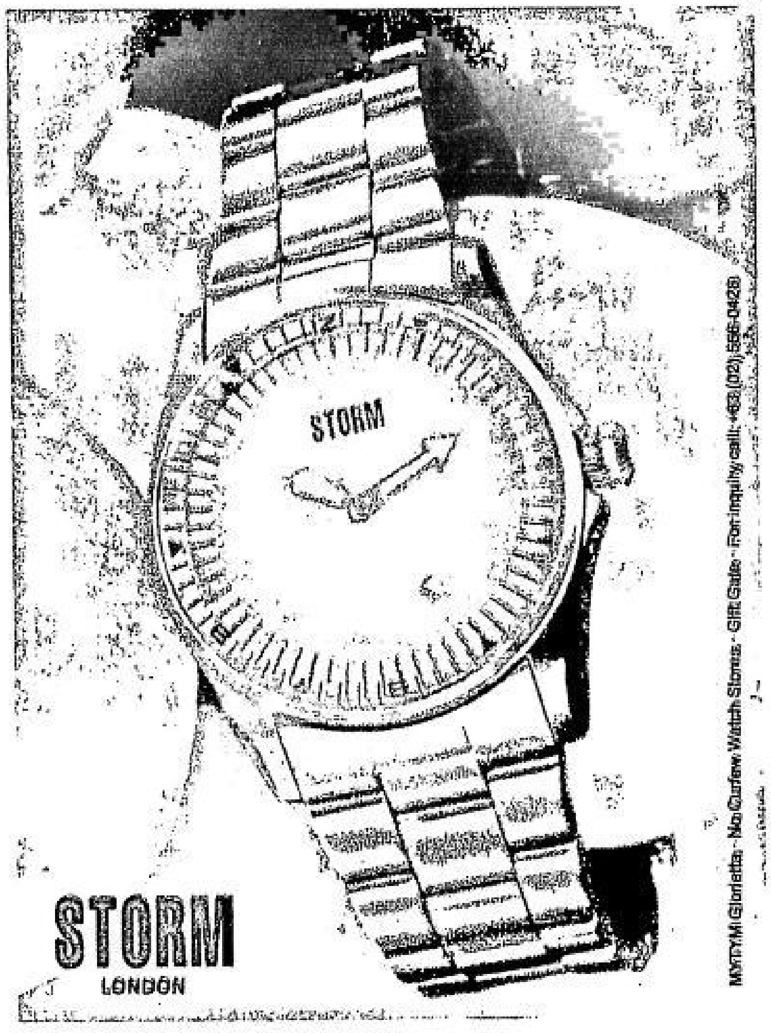

MYTYM Glorietta · No Curfew Watch Stores · Gift Gate · For inquiry call: +63(02) 556-0428

HONG KONG WINTERFEST
Dazzling Nights + Non-Stop Parties — HK is On!

This year, Hong Kong's famed WinterFest (30/11/2007 - 1/1/2008) has organized a series of fabulous programmes for you. You'll be spoiled for choice with spectacular animated illuminations that cover the skyscrapers on both sides of Victoria Harbour. The streets and malls are dressed up in dazzling decorations and there are fabulous celebrations and surprise performances by troupes of entertainers. Enjoy mega-savings shopping sales plus dining treats and the stupendous *A Symphony of Lights - New Year Countdown* to welcome the New Year of 2008.

Discover happy, sparkling parties at WinterFest. Come with your friends to celebrate a glittering winter getaway.

Check out more programme highlights at **DiscoverHongKong.com.**

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Proudly made in RP

Myth creative director Randy Ortiz

MYTH, A BOUTIQUE SHOWCASING FILIPINO DESIGN, opens today in Greenbelt 5. The specialty store offers ready-to-wear pieces by some of the country's most in-demand designers such as Randy Ortiz, Jojie Lloren, Ivarluski Aseron, Joey Samson and Dennis Lustico.

Makeup maven Henri Calayag offers his much-awaited makeup line while top hairstylist Jing Monis uses his experience and expertise to come up with a line of hair products. Artist Doltz Pilar's installations are also available in this fashionable address.

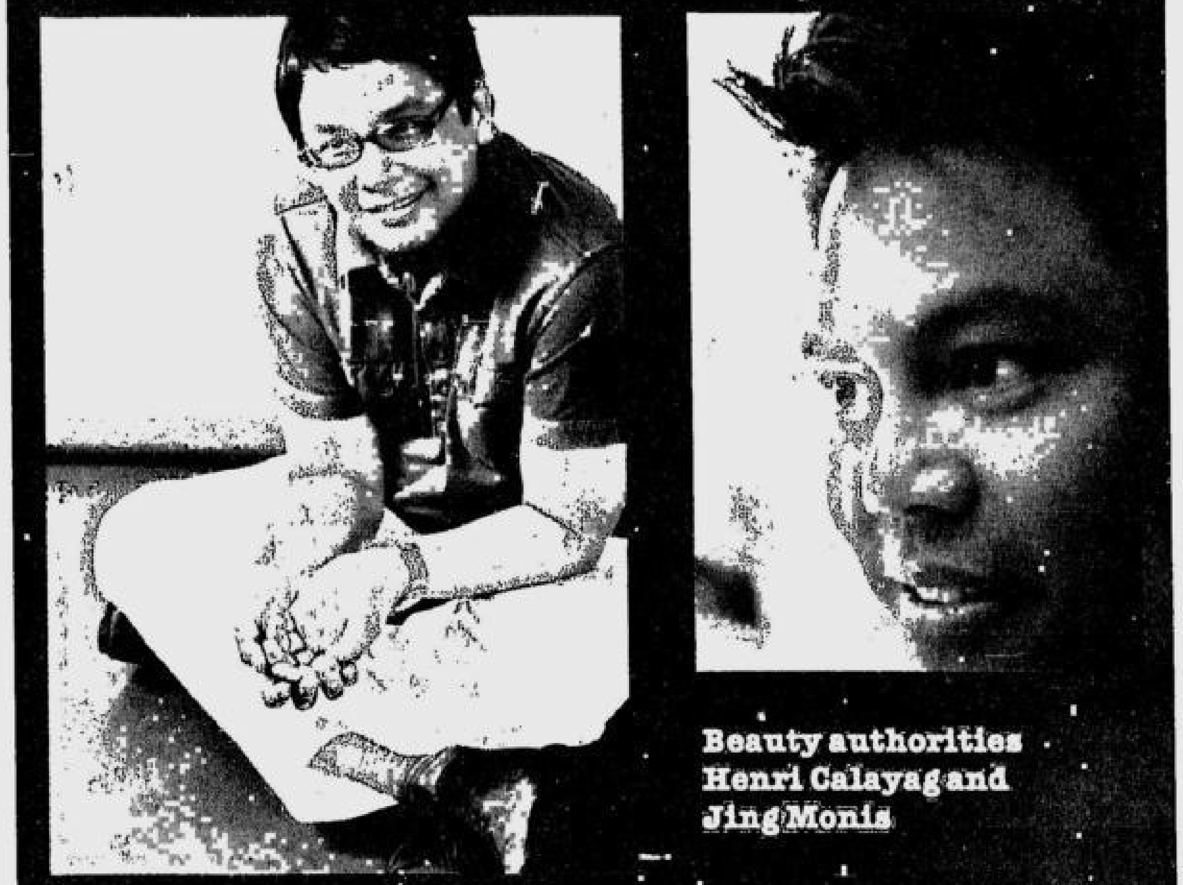
Shopmanila COO Ruby Gan, who is behind the venture, explained the Myth philosophy: "I believe it's about time the Filipino designers are given the right exposure in their own country. We've received international accolades but none domestically, which is sad of course."

"Everything in our boutique is made in the Philippines, as we aim to offer the perfect combination of Filipino design sensibility and manufacturing," said Ortiz, creative director of Myth.

The prolific designer is also developing his own product line, which includes fashionable leather slippers and belts made of Bulacan leather, for both men and women, scented candles, and cufflinks made of sterling silver with a variety of stones and finishes. The items—all perfect Christmas treats—are available in the boutique.

Visit Myth in the Filipino Zone, 2/L, Greenbelt 5, or www.mythlifestyle.com.

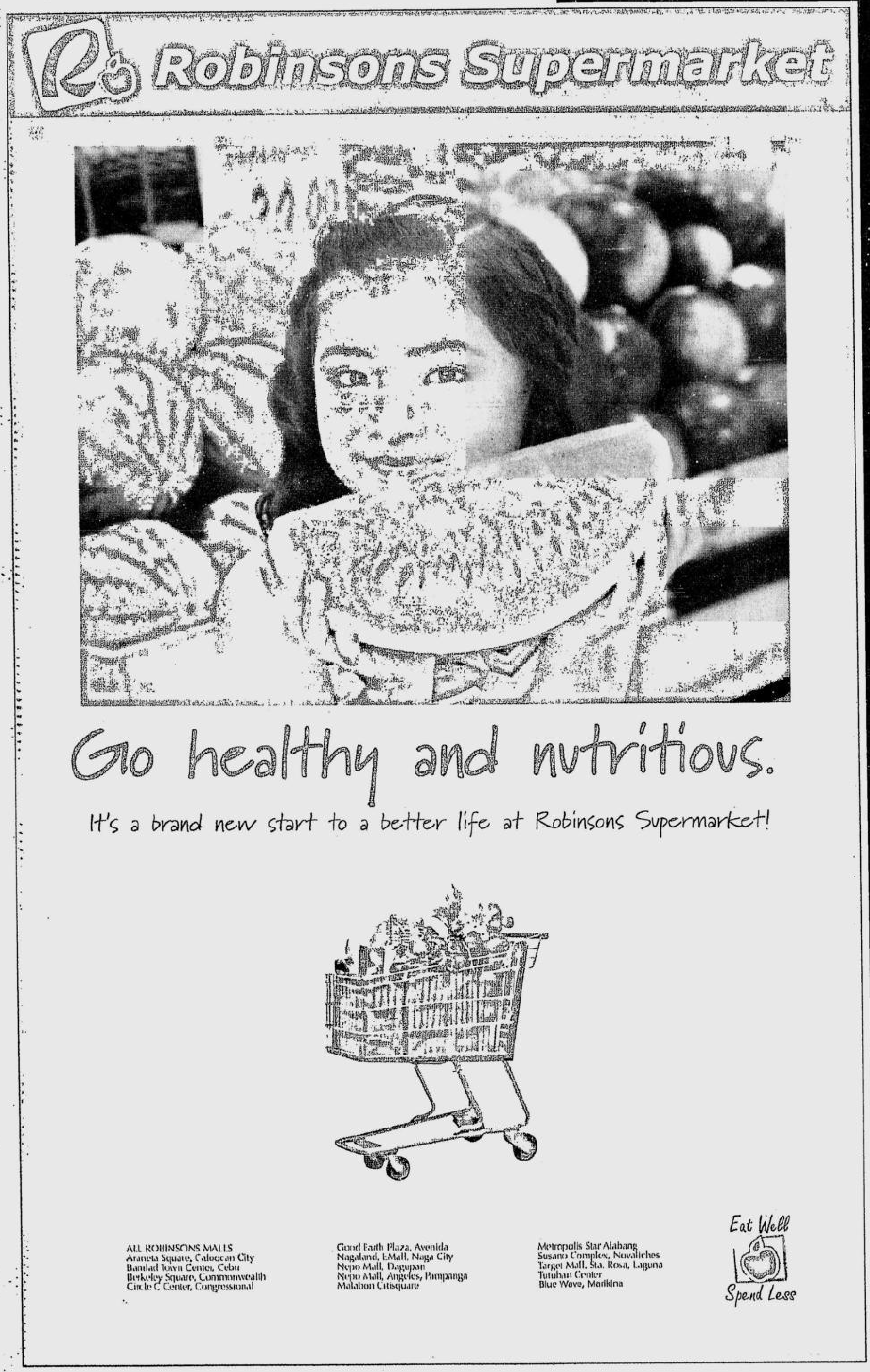
Myth's powerhouse cast



Beauty authorities Henri Calayag and Jing Monis

Designers (from top) Jesus Lloren, Dennis Lustico, Joey Samson and Ivarluski Aseron

Artist Doltz Pilar



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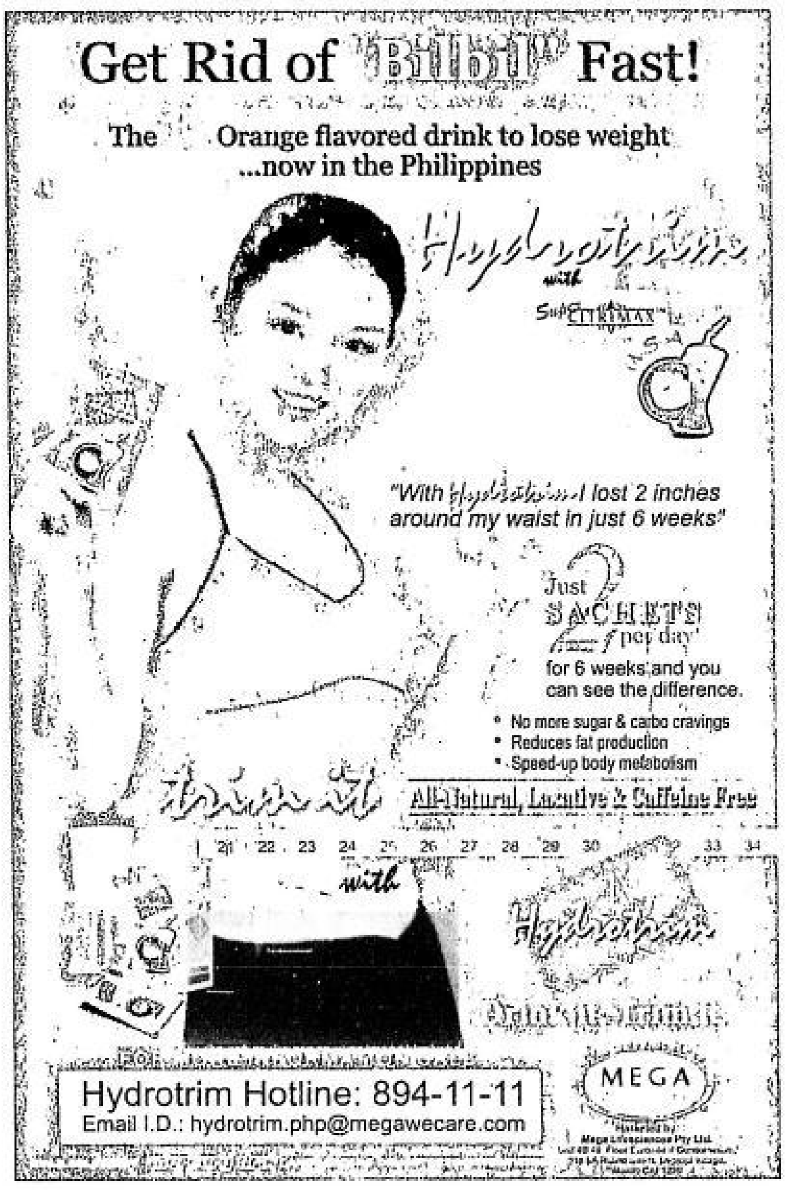
BEAUTY



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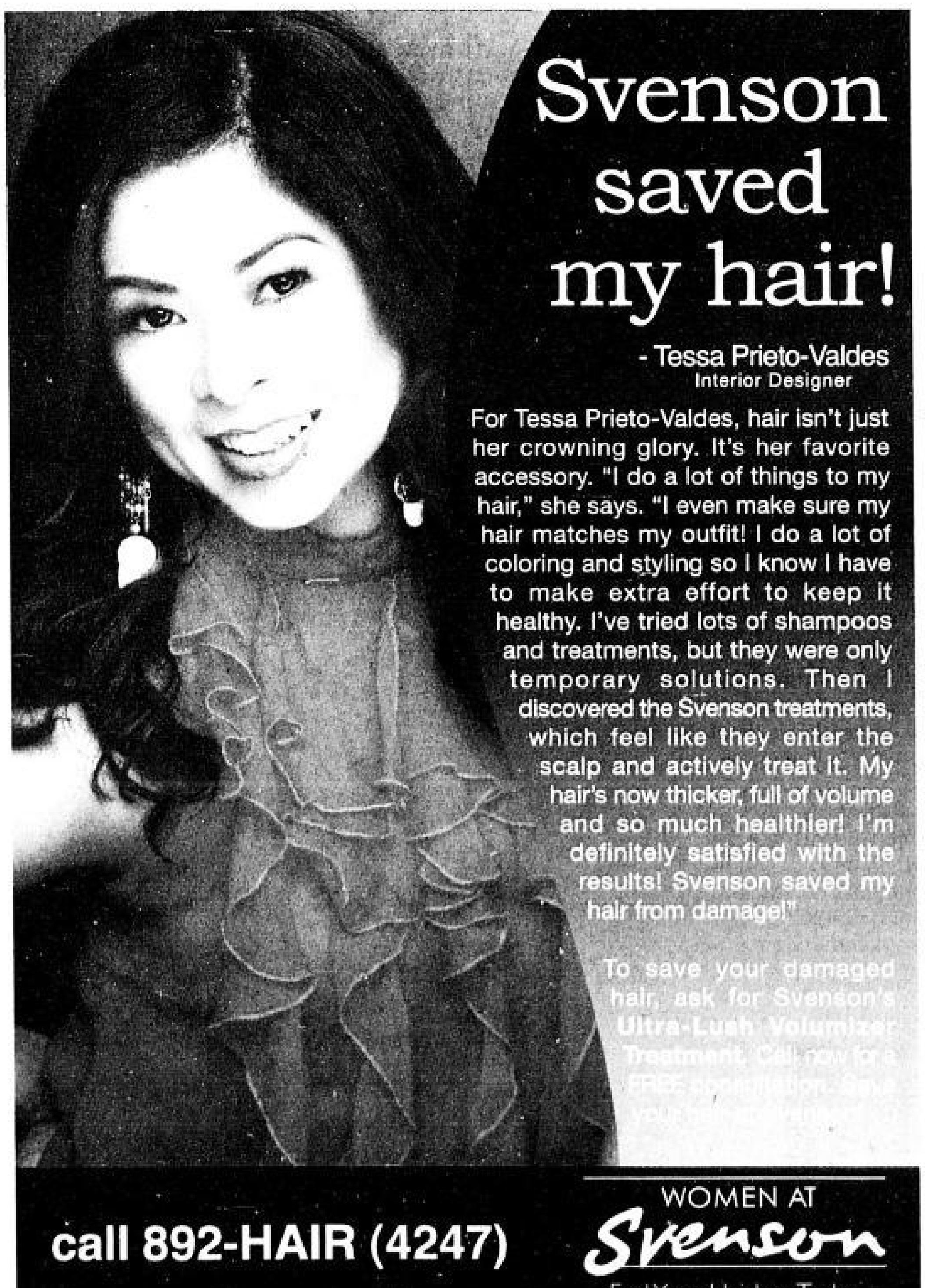

Svenson saved my hair!

- Tessa Prieto-Valdes
Interior Designer

For Tessa Prieto-Valdes, hair isn't just her crowning glory. It's her favorite accessory. "I do a lot of things to my hair," she says. "I even make sure my hair matches my outfit! I do a lot of coloring and styling so I know I have to make extra effort to keep it healthy. I've tried lots of shampoos and treatments, but they were only temporary solutions. Then I discovered the Svenson treatments, which feel like they enter the scalp and actively treat it. My hair's now thicker, full of volume and so much healthier! I'm definitely satisfied with the results! Svenson saved my hair from damage!"

To save your damaged hair, ask for Svenson's **Ultra-Lush Volumizer Treatment**. Call now for a FREE consultation. Save your [illegible]

call 892-HAIR (4247)

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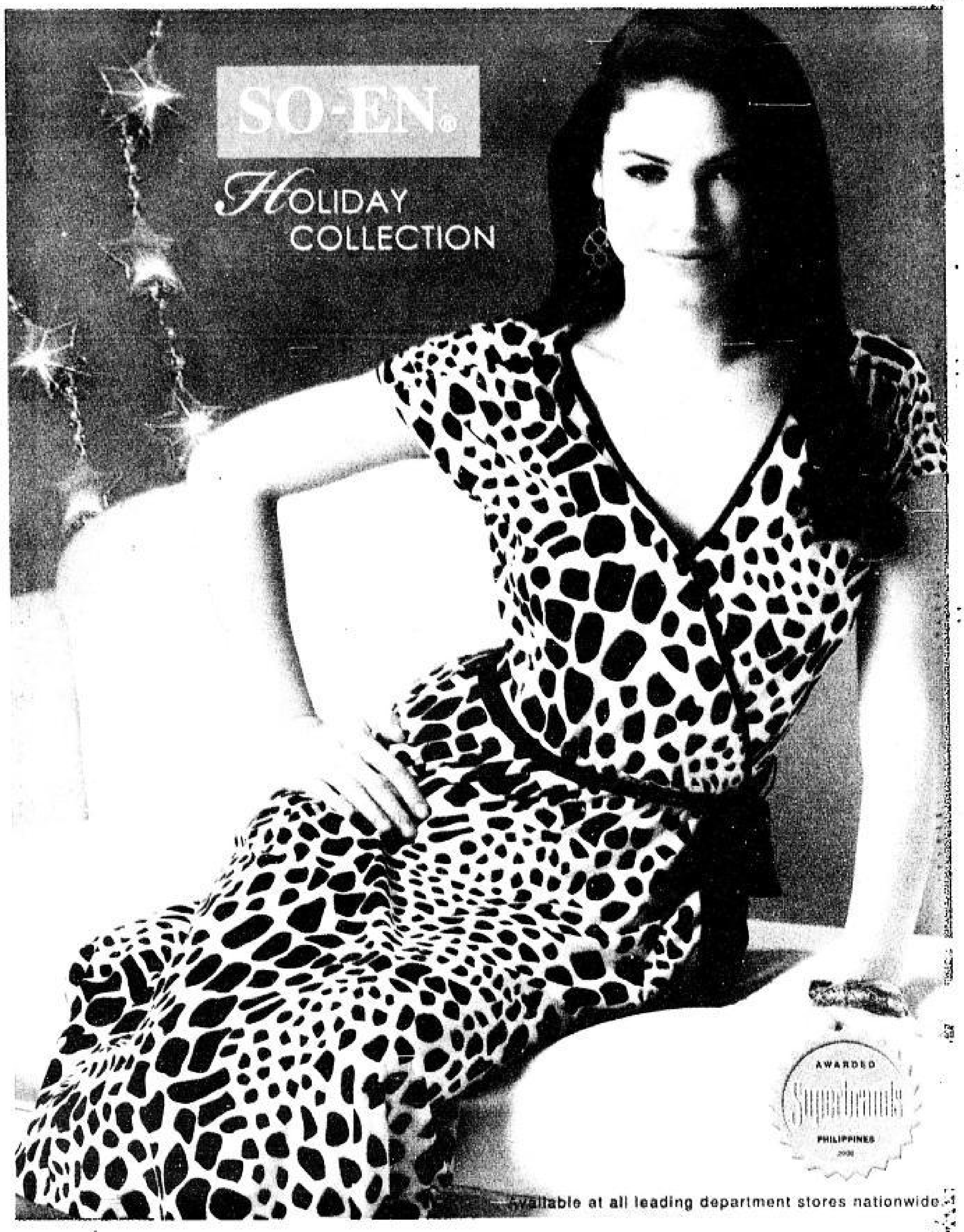

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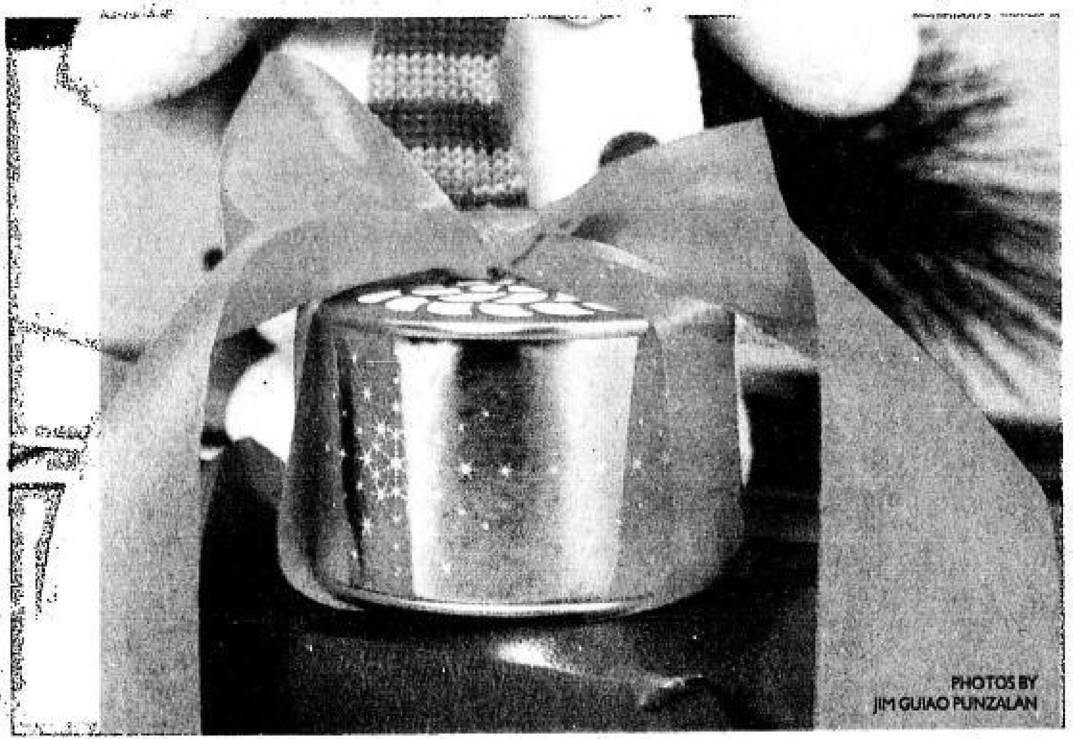


PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Golden age

The Yuletide season's makeup gets the Midas touch

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

THIS SEASON I AM loving everything gold! Last year it was silver. This year, my new metallic color of choice is gold!

I show my close friends my *kikay* kit and they all start laughing. Why? Because the packaging of my makeup is gold. No, I don't have to compromise the quality of the products. In fact, it seems the best brands have received, to my delight, the Midas touch.

All products available at Rustan's.

Also for my last week's column on Philippe Salon, a lot of people were inquiring about its telephone number and address. Here it is. Philippe's Salon 2295 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati; 830-3030.

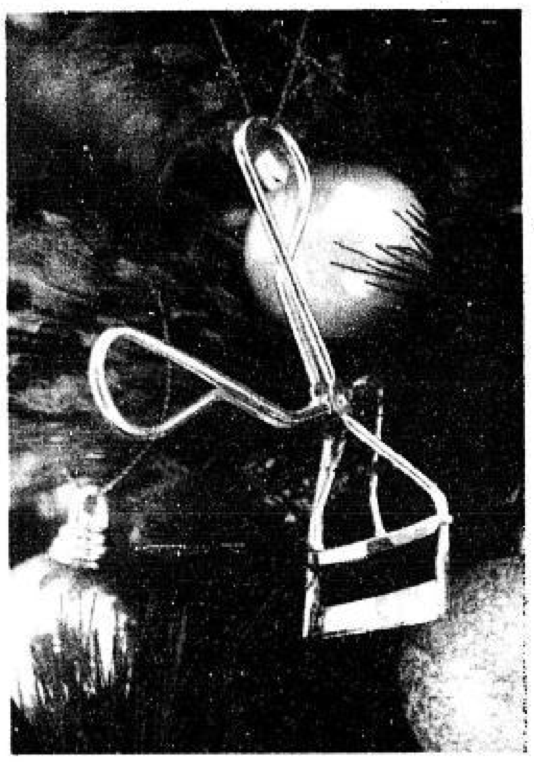
Gold dust

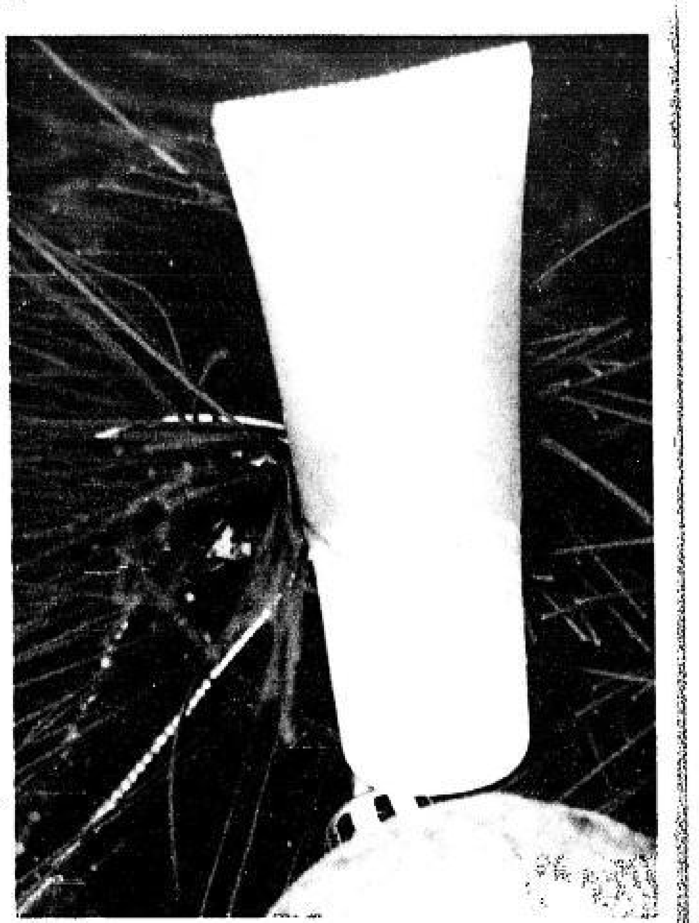
The Meteorites Gold Temptation Pearls, the famous Guerlain pearls, are now even smaller, like pearls of caviar. These precious jewels are even more dazzling in their new six gold and silver shades: pearly gold and silver for radiance and sparkle, rose gold and champagne for natural radiance, white gold to subtly brighten and illuminate, and apricot for a healthy glow. They are contained in the Meteorites box, which is decked out in this season's best.

Personally, I've always loved Meteorites because it evens out my skin tone and makes my skin appear luminescent. It also makes my makeup blend better on my skin. I have been recommending this product to my friends and so far I haven't heard any complaints. It may seem a bit pricey, but it lasts a long time. Mine lasted almost a year!

24K Gold

Shu Uemura's gold plated curl lash is the most lavish pair I've seen. Perfect for those allergic to silver and deserves only the best.





Gold Mine

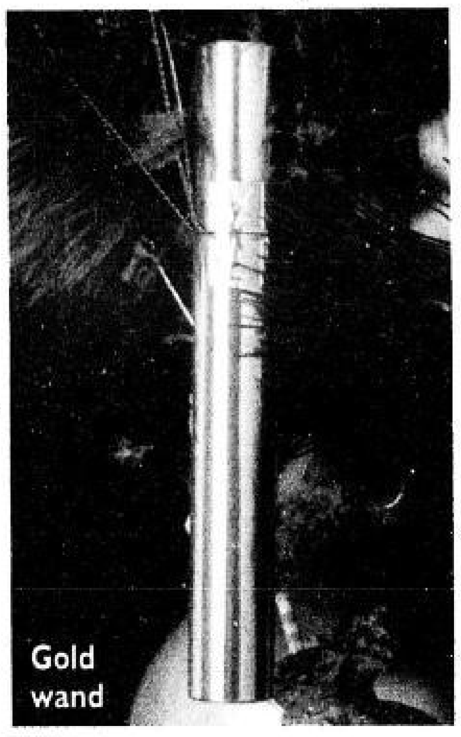
Lancom's Juicy Tubes now comes in 7ml easy to dump Christmas boxes with four yummy variants. Should be part of any girl's Christmas wish list or buy it as a gift to yourself!

Gold burst

With its uniquely soft texture, Kiss Kiss Gloss is now available in gold via Gold Princess, which can be applied on its own or over another lipstick.

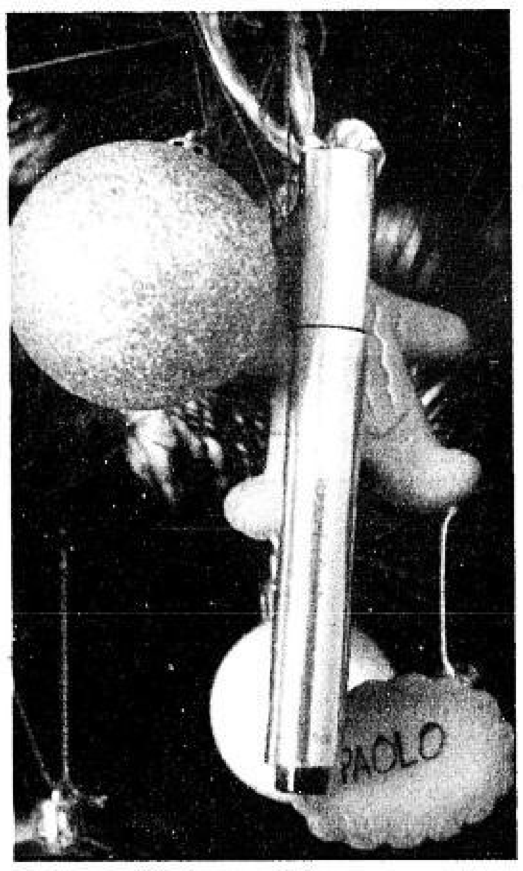
It adds shimmer and plumpness to the lips. It makes lips kiss-worthy! What more can a girl ask for?

I use Kiss Kiss Gloss over all my fave shades. During the day I use it alone, and I still enjoy the shimmer it adds on without my lips looking overly made up.



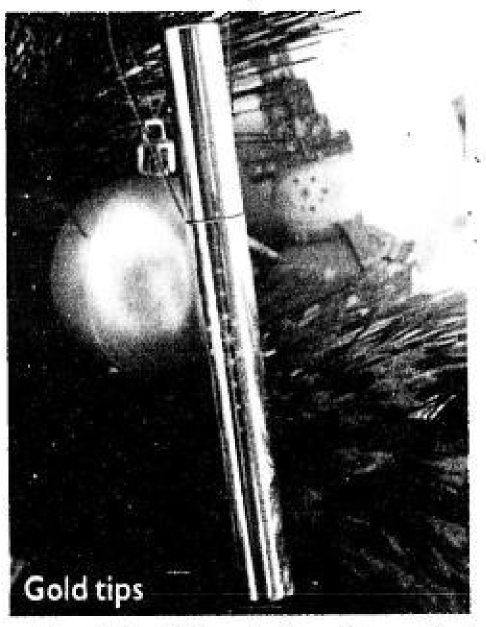
Gold wand

YSL's mascara comes in this lush gold packaging that makes me forget I bought it because it is volumizing, lengthening and water-proof at the same time. So as not to make my lashes look fake, I opt for the brown shade for that subtle look. Also, it is perfect to use from day to night so I don't need more than one.



Gold Touch

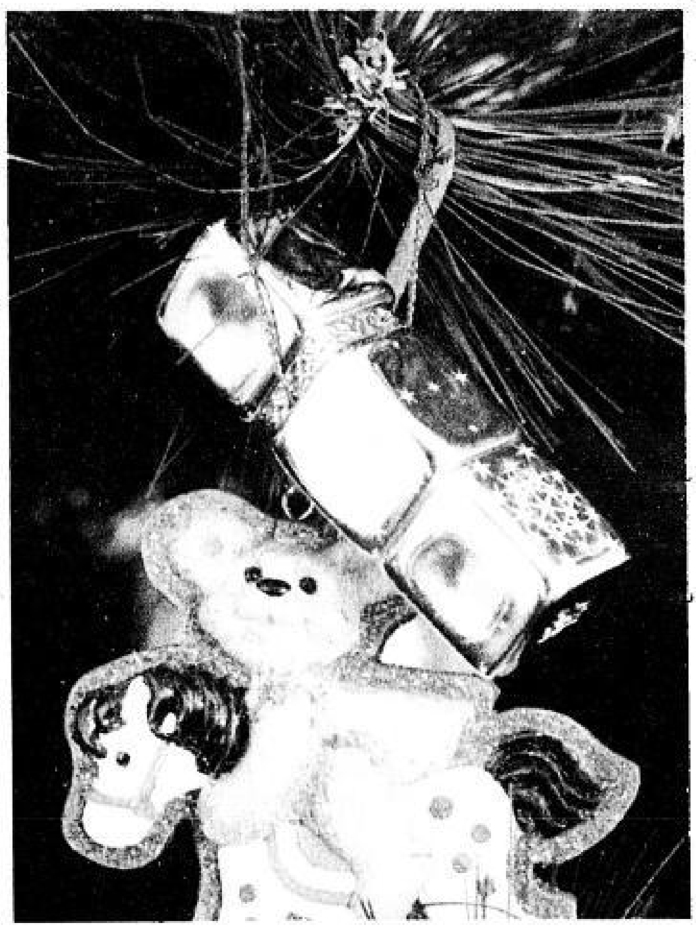
YSL's Touche Eclat Radiant Touch is not only their star product but mine, too. It is a luminizer that also works well as a concealer. I use it in my dark circles and right after I look fresh and well rested.



Gold tips

The light Golden Lash gel is applied over mascara to add a golden shine to lashes. Its pearly effect can be applied accurately to the tips of the lashes through the especially designed applicator for optimum effect. It is available in a small elegant bottle resplendent in gold and white. This product is essential for party nights!

When I'm in a hurry and have no time to put on eye shadow, I put on Golden Lash. It brightens up my eyes and makes my lashes look great because of sheen.



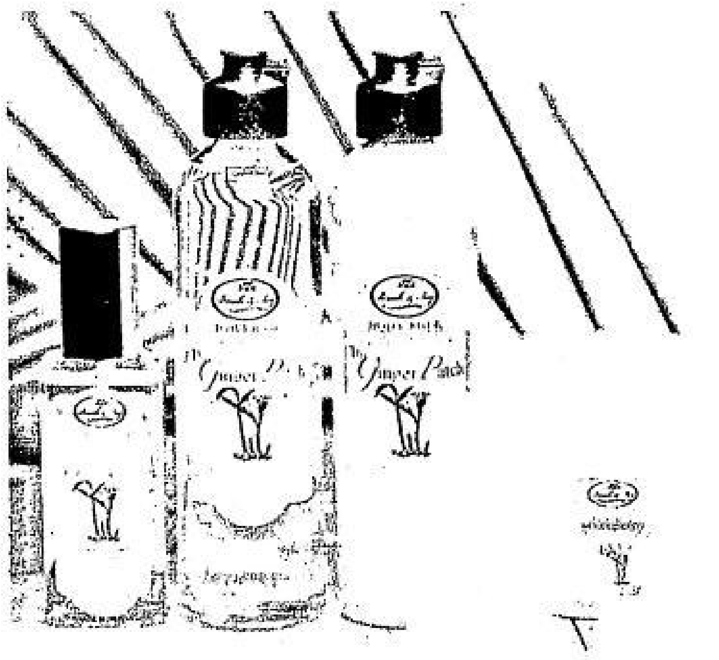
Gold bar

Adorned in party outfit, the limited-edition Kiss Kiss Precious Colors, Silky and Delicious comes in new colors with bursting gold pearls, such as forever beige and sophisticated beige.

When I'm at a friend's house or in a restaurant, I am not ashamed to whip out this lippie when I need to reapply. In fact, I love it so much that I find myself using it even when I don't need reapplication.

Great packaging saves us girls time from having to excuse ourselves to go to the powder room.

Nature-inspired body products



GINGER Patch

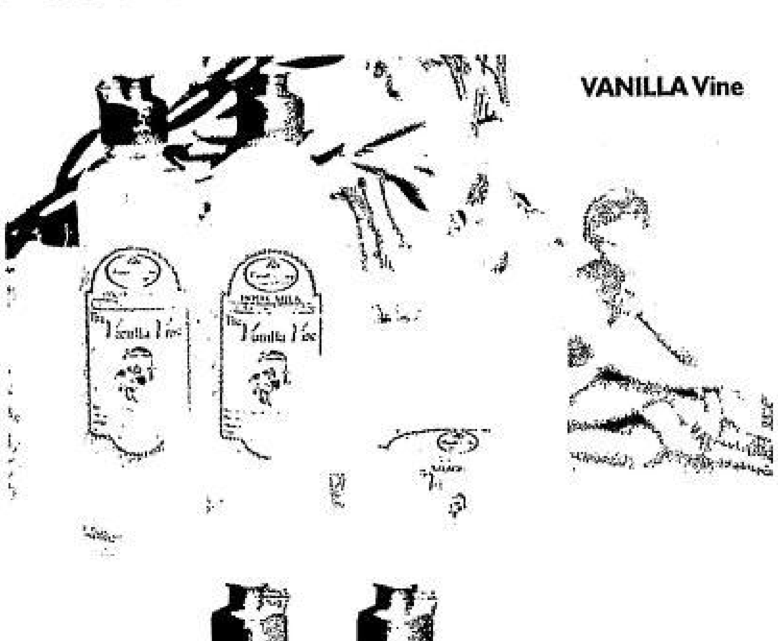
THE BROOK & IVY BATH AND body line will come beautifully packaged in sets this Christmas.

Brook & Ivy is intended for women—and even men—who crave for lavish skin-pampering products that don't hurt their budget.

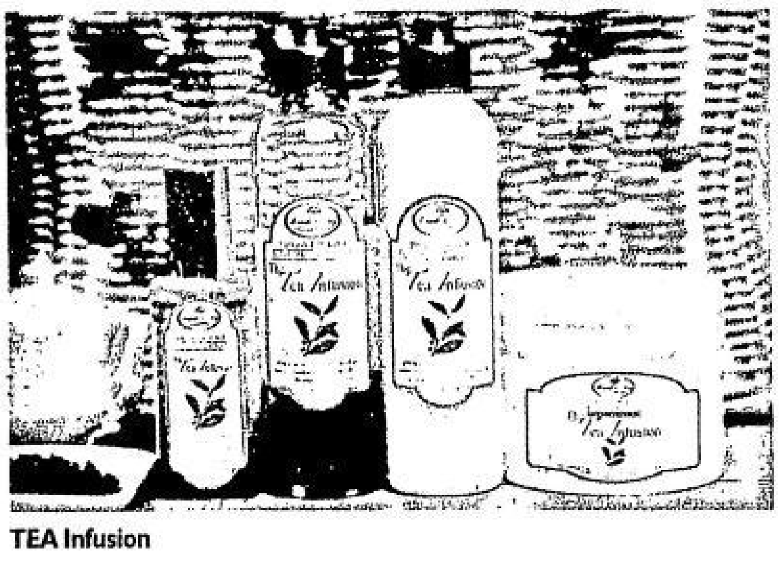
Brook & Ivy is a nature-inspired brand that's made from all-imported ingredients like Dead Sea salts and fragrance oils from France, and developed using Swiss technology. All products are free from parabens and approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

The brand's introductory collections include The Ginger Patch, The Olive Grove, The Vanilla Vine, The Lavender Garden and The Tea Infusion. Each collection consists of a gentle, safe-for-babies Shower Gel (P165), which has the moisture-retaining ingredient called Pentavitin; minerals-rich Body Buff (P225) with exfoliating salts from the Dead Sea; and the shea butter and aloe vera-enriched but non-greasy formula Body Milk (P195). Skin Scents (P225) with high concentrations of French fragrance oils are also available in three variants.

Brook & Ivy is available at all Shopwise, Rustan's Supermarkets (Makati, Shangri-La, Power Plant and Gateway), Crossings Department Store (Quezon Avenue and Shangri-La), and soon at Landmark in Makati and TriNoma. Call 426-0054 or visit www.brookandivy.com.



VANILLA Vine



TEA Infusion

LAVENDER Garden

OLIVE Grove

Cosmetology school open for franchising

THE CENTER FOR AESTHETIC STUDIES (CAS), a primary program of Isdanco Foundation and now one of the most respected cosmetology schools in the country, has just opened its doors to franchising.

For P1.5 million capital, CAS franchisees will be given turn-key operational system, four staffers and proper logistics created from the design template of Arch. Popi Laudico.

They will also be given aid in site selection and assessment, as well as training for their staff.

To ensure smooth turn-over, the CAS has also commissioned Francorp, a leading consulting firm, to prepare its franchise system.

As part of the system, franchisees will be given continuing marketing support through various programs and collaterals created by world-renowned photographers Rachel Rillo and Isa Lorenzo. Now with over 500 student-graduates, the cosmetology program of the CAS covers main areas of aesthetics (face, hair, and body) while its curriculum focuses on skills training, proper attitudinal formation and Filipino culture and appreciation.

Although a lot of franchise opportunities are now available, the CAS believes that educational service in the field of cosmetology offers a greatly rewarding investment, particularly for small entrepreneurs and OFWs. With the move to franchise, the CAS's hopes to continue on with its commitment to offer a better way of life and perspective for living among Filipinos through alternative education. For more details, call 897-0383.

A STUDENT from CAS does make-up as part of the school's training curriculum.

Holistic training in the beauty business

THE TONY GALVEZ SCHOOL of Cosmetology (TGSC) offers a comprehensive training program to prepare students for careers in the beauty industry.

At the core of the program is holistic training. The curriculum includes chemistry, anatomy, mathematics, communication, and salon management, in addition to hair-cutting, coloring, facial makeup and nail care.

TGSC is the only school in the Philippines offering cosmetology courses with a curriculum patterned after international programs and global training structure. At TGSC, cosmetology courses comply with licensing requirements in Greece, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and United States.

The school is headed by the uncle and nephew tandem of Tony and Jake Galvez.

Prepare for the future with a course that validates and accredits the competencies of the vocational course graduate suited for the global market. The school has years of experience and a reputation as one of the most prestigious salons in the country and state-of-the-art salon equipment for training.

The Tony Galvez School of Cosmetology is located at the 2nd floor of the Tony Galvez Centrum at No. 124 9th Avenue near corner P. Tuazon Boulevard, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City; 913-4370/ 913-3953, e-mail info@tonygalvez.com.ph, www.tonygalvez.com.ph

BEND MY UMBRELLA. Taking its inspiration from style icons Victoria Beckham and Rihanna, the team gives Kathleen Cruz a look that combines street tough and glam chic.

SPACE AGE. Pie Arcinue is given a futuristic look with asymmetrical hair and fantastical colors.

PHOTO CREDITS: HAIR AND MAKE UP BY: BUERN RODRIGUEZ, JAKE GALVEZ & FIDEL TANGO
MODELS: KATHLEEN CRUZ, PIE ARCINUE, AND NICA REYES

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Goodbye cellulite and stretch marks

ELANCYL BY GALENIC LABORATORIES brings you a range of effective skincare solutions for cellulite and stretch mark control. Distributed by Pacific Healthcare Inc., one of the leading distributors and marketers of healthcare and related products in Thailand, Elancyl allows your body to discover the true meaning of beauty and wellness.

GALENIC
ELANCYL

Elancyl Lipo Reducing Concentrate has daytime active ingredients of Caffeine, PEG-ester, TEA-salicylate that helps the fat release process in the morning. The nighttime active ingredient of Phloridzine helps reduce the storage of fats and increase the natural drainage of the body.

In a study and utilization test carried out by Galenic Laboratories on 141 women aged 18 to 45 years old, Elancyl helped reduce up to 2.9 cm on the thighs after 14 days of usage, with the rapid improvement of the cellulite appearance and the smooth and firm quality of the skin as aftereffects.

Meanwhile, the Elancyl Active Slimming Massage Glove and Slimming Shower Gel promote cellular exchange, toxin stimulation, and skin oxygenation while toning and making the skin firmer. Use them in tandem daily in the shower or on towel-dried skin using bare hands.

The Elancyl Toning Shower Gel is a soap-free gel that turns into foam when put in contact with water. Feel refreshed as it gently cleans the skin and leaves it toned.

The Elancyl Stretch Mark Reducing Concentrate helps reduce stretch marks with its blue algae extract, which have repairing and cell stimulating properties.

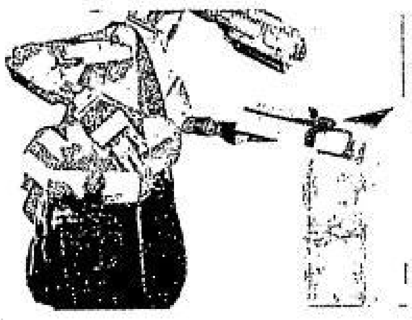
Its moisturizing agents boost the elimination of dead cells and stimulate cell renewal.

Another must-try product is Elancyl's Stretch Mark Preventive and Reducing Cream, which makes skin more resilient.

Elancyl is available in all Rustan's Essences branches. Visit www.elancyl.com.

2007 Holiday Ad Campaign by PUMA® Features G1FT-BOT-07

A Robot Is Caught up in the Spirit of Giving



PUMA® introduces its 2007 Holiday Ad Campaign featuring the unique G1FT-BOT-07 character, helping consumers with their holiday shopping. With a simple white background, the G1FT-BOT-07 is depicted in a variety of activities ranging from stitching, sewing, packing, wrapping and mailing popular PUMA holiday items including footwear, apparel and accessories.

The visuals are accompanied by a small computerized G1FT-BOT "receipt" graphic that includes the article name and a short message from the robot itself to consumers about the product such as: "chic"... "stylish"... "Sweet" ... "snug" or "slick."

Items featured in the campaign are PUMA footwear such as Shanghai Metro, Yin Women's as well as apparel such as the Duffle Jacket, Jean Clare Tee, Courier Bag.

Check out the PUMA 2007 Holiday collection available at PUMA stores at at Bonifacio High Street, 2nd Level Glorietta 4, 2nd Level Trinoma, Upper Ground Level Festival Supermall, Ground Floor Limketkai Mall, 2nd Level Gaisano Mall of Davao and 2nd Level Robinsons Bacolod. Also available in leading department stores and shoe outlets nationwide.

PUMA® is the global athletic brand that successfully fuses influences from sport, lifestyle and fashion. PUMA's unique industry perspective delivers the unexpected in sportlifestyle footwear, apparel and accessories, through technical innovation and revolutionary design. Established in Herzogenaurach, Germany in 1948, PUMA distributes products in over 80 countries. For further information please visit www.puma.com.

Yin Women's

Shanghai Metro

---- MESSAGE ----
WOMEN'S TRAINER
LEATHER SLIP-ON
ORNATE STITCHING
SILVER / WHITE
ANALYSIS (SLEEK)
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HAPPY HOLIDAY
GIFT-BOT-2007
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

G1FT-BOT-2007 invites you to visit
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About face

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Firm Plus trims down the double-chin and cheek fat minus the pain factor

COLD gel applied to buffer heat from IR and Radiofrequency pulses

FIRM Plus

WE ALL KNOW OF SOMEONE who may have a trim and sexy body but looks heavy in photos due to a full, fat face. Like thick ankles, there is no exercise to solve this problem, short of face liposuction or filing down the bones via bloody surgery.

When one hits 30, the problem gets worse as the double-chin gets bigger and the cheek fats slide down to the jaw line. Except for the sexy body, these are the problems I am facing now.

There were three radio frequency machine-options offered to me by the Belo Group:

1. Thermage—it has the highest pain factor with the face swelling for the first week after treatment. But it is done only once every two years. It is also the most expensive, starting at P100,000 per session. The patient needs to go under sedation. So I passed up on that one.

2. Pan-G—it firms up the facial muscles so strong jaw lines become more compact, cheek tissue is hauled back to its proper position, eyes are opened up and eyebrows are arched more. Of its capabilities, I like the muscle-firming best, as the exfoliation can be done by other machines for less, and the skin firming up on the face and neck feels hot on bony areas and is a torture on teeth fillings. Pan-G for muscle firming is a go!

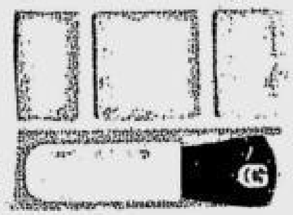
3. Firm Plus—This is the newest baby and it makes me feel glad I waited. There is no pain whatsoever and the procedure is done every three or four weeks for five sessions, then maintained every two to three months. You lie down, wear goggles, really cold gel is smeared all over your face and neck, then you are zapped to the device held at an angle for certain face and neck contours for 45 minutes.

The very next day people at home and at work said I lost weight from the day before. They told me to take it easy as abrupt weight loss is not healthy and I seemed to have lost five to 10 pounds. But I weighed the same!

The treatment showed the fastest and most visible results for me. My face and eyebags got smaller and the lines on my neck were ironed out. My slight double chin was gone!

Cost: P9,000/area + VAT and tax (face and neck are separate areas). If you get the five-session package, it's P80,000+ VAT and tax. My program is the Aurora to fade brown and red marks, and Firm Plus for firming both face and neck, which costs P28,000, VAT included, per session.

For inquiries regarding treatments, call 8442939 or e-mail info@belomed.com

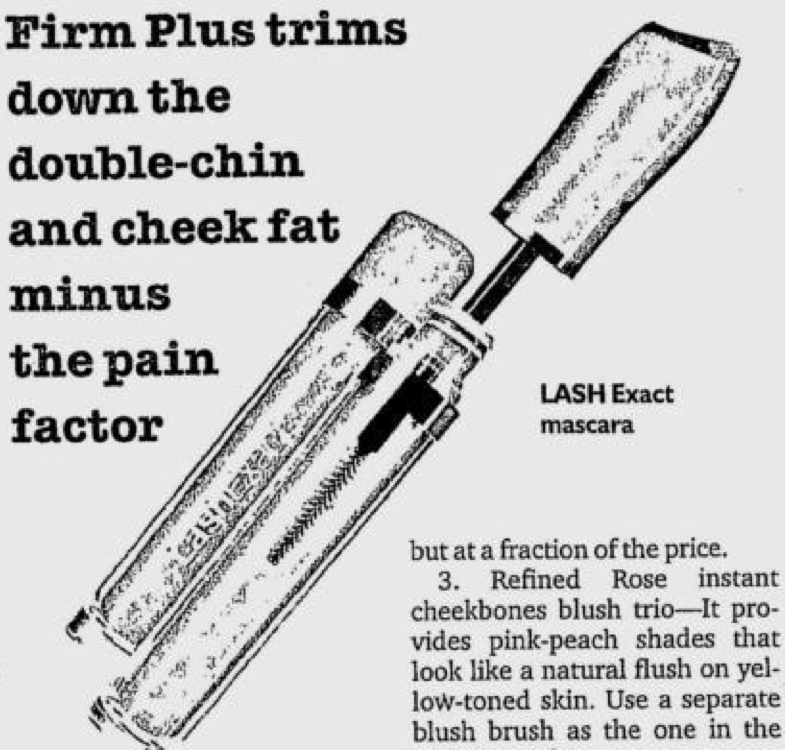


INSTANT Cheekbones blush

Affordable makeup

The Skincare Inc. foundation and mascara, with their patented magic wands, come with a hefty price tag. The only reasonably priced brand I knew that had the formula was Cover Girl. The last time I used it though was when it had Noxema skincare ingredients. It disappeared from the Philippines around the late 1980s and I had to order the Pretty Peach blush and Professional mascara from abroad since then.

But it is now again available in the Philippines through Proctor & Gamble's Olay Regenerist and SPF 10's Advanced Radiance line of foundations and powder.



LASH Exact mascara

If you have normal to oily skin the AR line is your moisturizer and foundation in one. Apply after toner. For dryer skin, AR settles on lines and pores. The coverage is medium to heavy so it's great for blurring out pigmentation marks.

The AR Restorative Cream makes your skin smooth and silky without being shiny or cakey. It turns orangey on oilier skin so the cream is more ideal for dry to very dry skin.

Other star products:

1. Clean pressed powder—This is great for combination to oily skin as it blots out the oil but still allows the face to look natural. The Clean line is best for teens to early thirties and works best with Clean Fragrance Free foundation. I wish packaging were prettier though.

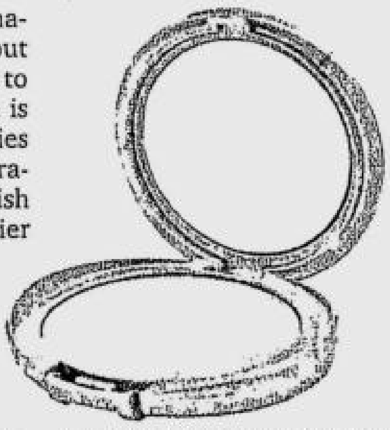
2. AR Pressed powder—It makes face smooth, silky and light! It doesn't look and feel like you have powder on. It blends right into skin and disguises big pores being comparable to brand names but at a fraction of the price.

3. Refined Rose instant cheekbones blush trio—It provides pink-peach shades that look like a natural flush on yellow-toned skin. Use a separate blush brush as the one in the pack is too skinny.

4. Lash Exact Waterproof mascara—defines each and every lash without clumping so you just look as if you have naturally darker and longer lashes. It's suitable for bare faces and daytime looks. If you want thicker-looking lashes, go for Volume Exact or actual eyelash extensions.

Available at leading department and drug stores.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



ADVANCED Radiance Pressed Powder

Holiday pampering

THE FACE SHOP IS TREATING holiday shoppers to fabulous discounts, free makeovers, photo shoots, foot massages, nail art and skin consultation services this holiday season.

On Dec. 7-9 at Alabang Town Center (G/L, Activity Area), The Face Shop is holding its most exciting event of the year.

"Holiday Pampering by The Face Shop," coincides with the store's ongoing "Customize Your Christmas Gift" in-store promo, wherein customers get to create their own gift sets.

With the wide range of cosmetic and skincare products, The Face Shop has ideal gift combinations for every budget and every person on one's Christmas list.

Best of all, combining two or more items with 20-percent or 30-percent stickers, customers can avail of a 20-percent or 30-percent discount, plus lovely gift boxes.

On top of this, with the special Holiday Pampering promo, customers can enjoy a pampering service of their choice free of charge.

Get a complete makeover from professional makeup artists at the beauty booths using The Face Shop products, of course.

A photo booth will also be stationed at the event so you can enjoy having your own little photo shoot after getting all dolled up.

Plus, you get to take home a wallet-sized photo courtesy of The Face Shop.

Here's how the Holiday Pampering by The Face Shop promo works:

With every P1,000 single-receipt purchase, customers can choose one of the following free services:

a) Free photoshoot with wallet-sized picture after a makeover, b) Foot massage, or c) Nail art service.

Shoppers can also avail of a free skin consultation and a free makeover, no purchase required.

Lastly, all shoppers will also be treated to free aloe soap samplers while supplies last.

Naturally sourced and potent

NATUROPATHY uses potent natural ingredients found in plants to boost personal health. The Natural Source, one of Australia's leading producers of beauty products, has adopted the approach.

One principle of naturopathy is that the body has an inherent capacity to establish, maintain and restore health. Products that are derived from nature not only complements the body's intrinsic ability to heal itself, it also helps the body be in its ideal condition.

This is why The Natural Source only makes use of the finest naturopathic ingredients. It is formulated from the finest Australian plant extracts and is free from harmful chemicals and preservatives as well as ingredients of animal origin. Even its packaging is environment-friendly.

The Natural Source products are packaged into several lines.

Terra Firma is a value-packed quality skin and body care range made from seeds, nuts and kernels. Deliciously infused with ingredients like hazel, oatmeal, bush honey and safflower, the Terra Firma aroma-botanical range is gentle for everyday use, even for those with sensitive skin.

The Daintree range characterizes the clean, fresh and pristine environment of the Daintree forest in Queensland's northern frontier, from which it was named after. It is a set of premium, gentle skin and body-care products for your daily regimen. Its plant-active ingredients are based purely on Australian herbs and is mixed with pure, chemical-free spring water.

For hair care, there's the Hi-Shine range. All products under this line undergo the unique micro-brewing process, an idea borrowed from the tradition of adding beer to shampoo for extra luster. Hi-Shine products restore health and balance to your crowning glory.

In Australian indigenous language, Mayaltha translates to "the season of flowering water lily." This time of glorious renewal and rejuvenation in nature is captured by Natural Source's Mayaltha Body Treatments range. These are highly-specialized products that target specific parts of the body-naturally healthy ways to make you a little sexier.

Camouflage Colour offers innovative cosmetic products that enable women to find just the right color to match their particular mood or outfit. It's completely free from toluene, a chemical used by other cosmetic products.

Fragrant Living Aromacology and Lifestyle Essentials consist of several gentle fragrances to enhance your living and bathroom spaces.

The Natural Source Organics is a range of pure essential oils organically extracted from a variety of flowers, herbs and spices and produced.

The Natural Source is located at Bldg. 8, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, and at the 3/L, TriNoma Mall in Quezon City. Call the TNS hotline at 818-7138.

TNS DAINTREE Purifying Earth Mineral Facial Mask detoxifies and nourishes skin with vitamins and minerals.

DAINTREE Aluminum-Free Anti-Perspirant with Wild Damiana from TNS contains a high level of slow release vegetable alcohol, which binds and releases the product's native Australian gum scent.

CAMOUFLAGE Colour from TNS is totally toluene-free and made from naturopathic ingredients such as beeswax, jojoba oil, calendula oil, lanolin and shea butter.

HI-SHINE Extra-Care Shampoo is known for its curative, remineralizing and regenerating properties.

LIFESTYLE

FASHION

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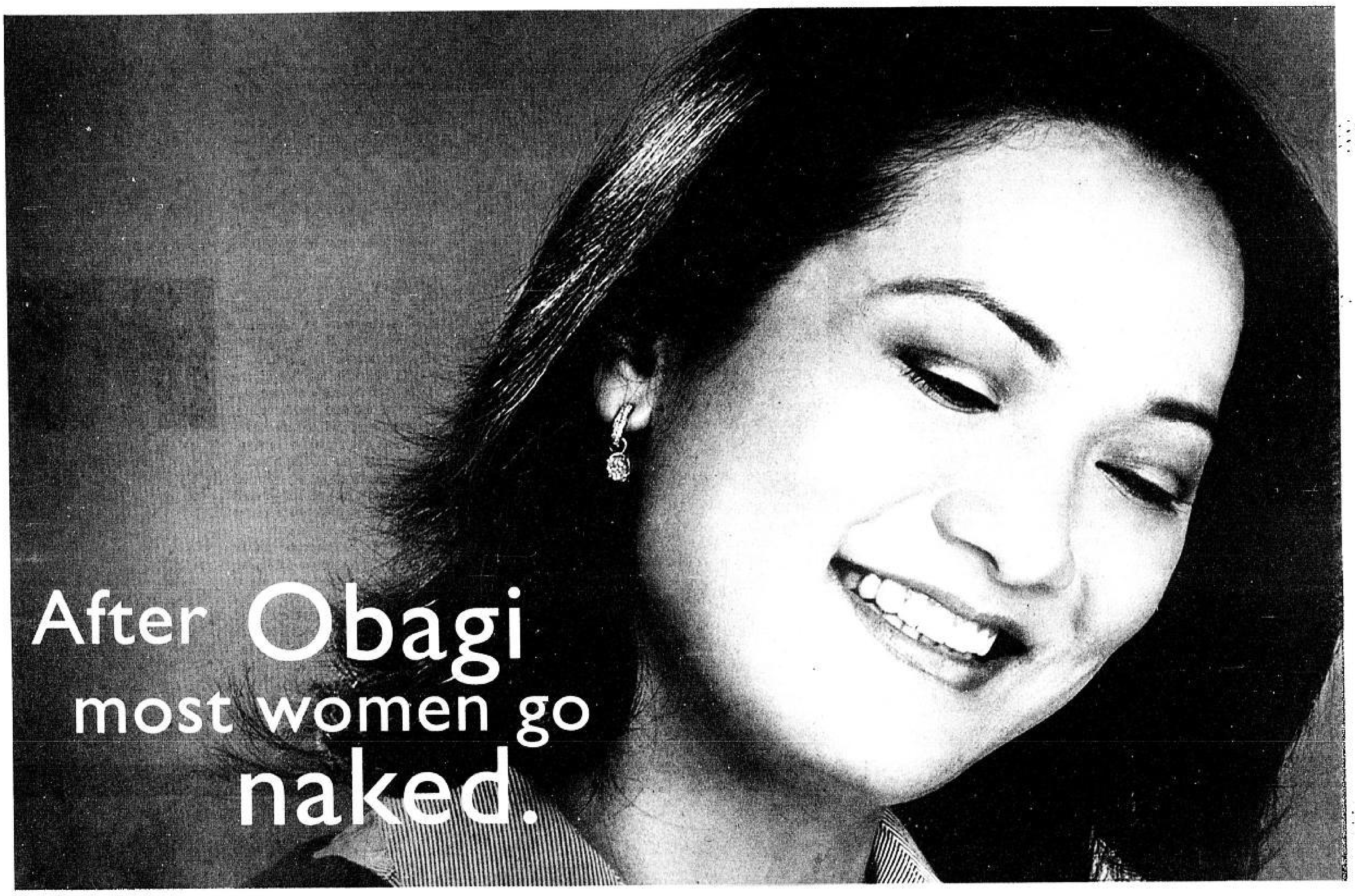
LuV is in the arts



You won't need makeup after using Obagi, the #1 physician-prescribed skin care system in the US that gives you brand new skin. The Obagi System works deep at the cellular level— from the inside out. It's clinically proven to be more effective than leading non-prescription products to correct an entire range of problems caused by sun, stress, hormones, age, and the environment. What's more, your Obagi System can be tailored by your Belo doctor to address your specific needs. So try the prescription skin care system that gives you brand new skin. This way, you can have skin that looks its absolute best when you're wearing absolutely nothing.

before
after

Individual results may vary.

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LuV is in the arts

(Part 1)

Jenni Epperson

FASHION AND ART ARE NOT-so-strange bedfellows. This is proven in Louis Vuitton's Spring/Summer 2008 collection, where Marc Jacobs has a creative collaboration with renowned American artist and photographer Richard Prince.

Prince's art has sparked controversy in the past, because of his technique of re-photographing to make pop culture collages. Since he used photographs of photographs, he fuelled debate in the art world about photographic copyright issues. Prince is known for his "Jokes"—a series of works that began in 1986 exploring the themes of sexual fantasies in middle-class America, using stand-up comedy and burlesque humor.

He is also known for his series of paintings of nurses based on the covers of pulp romance novels, called Nurse Paintings. In the series of 19 paintings, all the nurses wear caps and their mouths are covered by surgical masks, although in some of the paintings the red lips bleed through the masks.

Prince's paintings came to life in the Cour Carrée of the Louvre, the venue for Louis Vuitton's catwalk show, where the artist's collection of pulp romance covers were blown up.

Chic mood

A sinister chic mood was established with the titles "Paris After Dark," "London After Dark," "New York After Dark," "Hong Kong After Dark." Twelve supermodels, including Naomi Campbell, Stephanie Seymour and Eva Herzigova, appeared as nurses, carrying faded Monogram canvas bags silkscreen-printed with the popular cliché jokes appropriated by Prince from newspapers and magazines in the '70's.

The Monogram Jokes handbags are hands down the season's standout accessory, the main stage of the creative collaboration between designer and artist.

Prince's jokes are silkscreened onto the Monogram fabric in acid-bright, off-shades and trimmed with karung. Elsewhere is the Monogram Aquarelle, where Prince appropriated the archetypal symbol of luxury that is Louis Vuitton's Monogram canvas.

Using innovative screen-printing techniques, the artist produced an ironically imperfect "smudged" take on the motif, which are features on two iconic bags, the Papillon and the Speedy, in the original brown or white canvas, with frames and hand-painted karung handles. The Speedy bag came in super-luxe pink ostrich leather.

Deconstruction

The appropriation technique of the artist was interpreted in the collection with a lot of deconstruction. The runway featured the shadowy stories of characters in pulp urban romances in deconstructed layers, mismatched prints and eclectic colour combinations, all inspired by Prince's paintings.

The deconstructed look carried on in the evening wear, with a strapless gown in unevenly draped layers of royal blue tulle, a purple crystal skirt worn with a deconstructed pinstripe blazer, and a black blazer-cum-corset teamed with sporty black leggings.

Pumps, glasses

Other interesting surprises were inspired by the artist's off-center muses. A series of ladylike skirt suits with boxy, bracelet-sleeved jackets inspired by Princess Margaret in the 1960's were interpreted in eye-popping colors or sequined tulle.

Sexy, stiletto-heeled pumps showed the influence of Prince in the flashy shades of satin or patent leather. Asymmetrical effects, raw-cut edges and most strikingly, "broken" heels, translated the deconstructed-reconstructed theme of the collection.

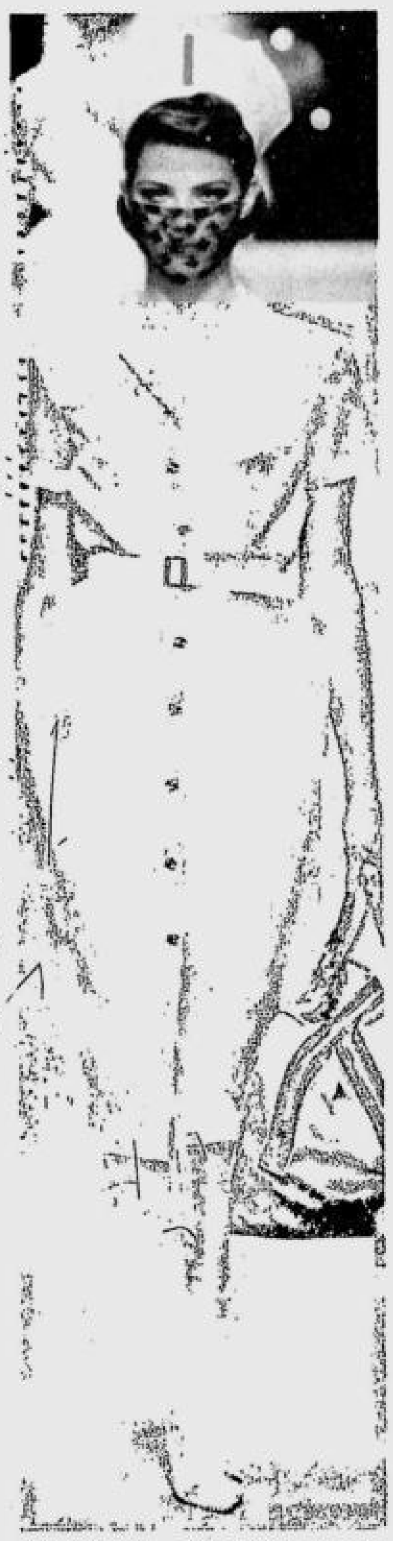
As for the sunglasses, Spring/Summer 2008 is all about graphic cat's eye-shaped models inspired by the 1960's glamorous and sophisticated style.

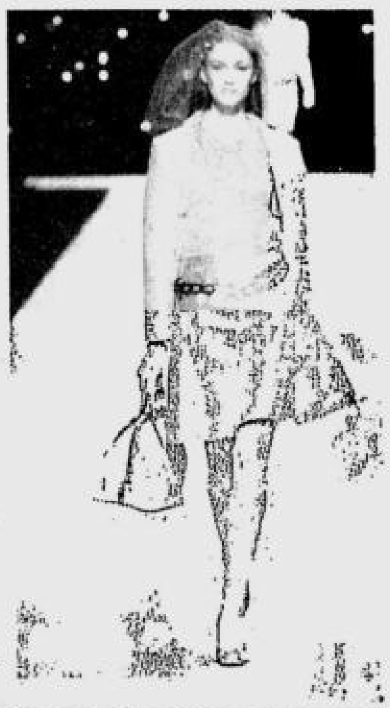
For men

If the women's collection was about deconstruction inspired by pop art, the Spring/Summer Men's collection is inspired by the decadent beach life of the 1920s. The decade's relaxed elegance is updated with cutting-edge tailoring and high-tech fabrics. The color palette, meanwhile, draws on all the hues of the beach, setting off refined cream, pale grey and indigo with vibrant accents of sky blue, burnt orange and mustard yellow.

This season's collection shows a balancing act between the snug-fitted, tailored look and a looser, slightly oversized silhouette. And apart from the classic nautical stripes, this was a collection of few prints, with visual interest achieved instead through intriguing use of texture.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph





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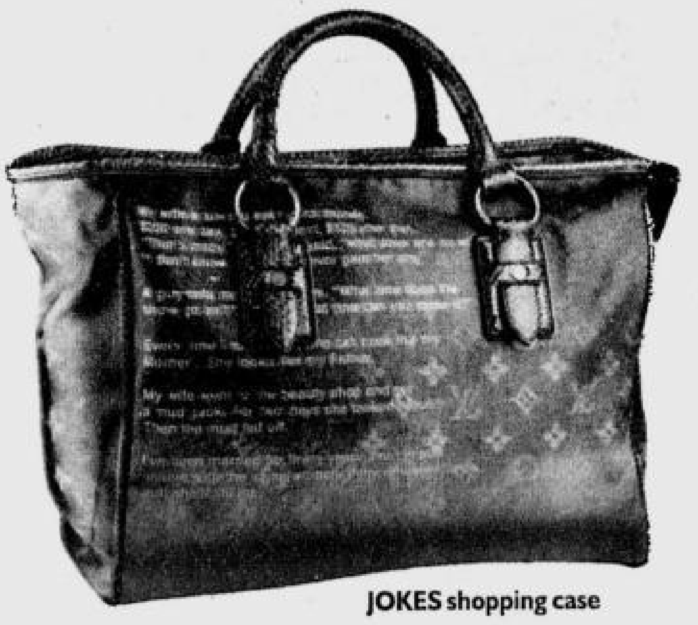
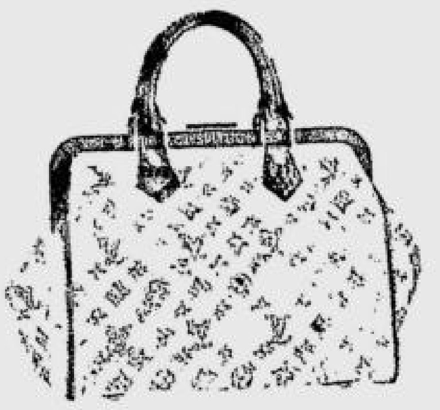
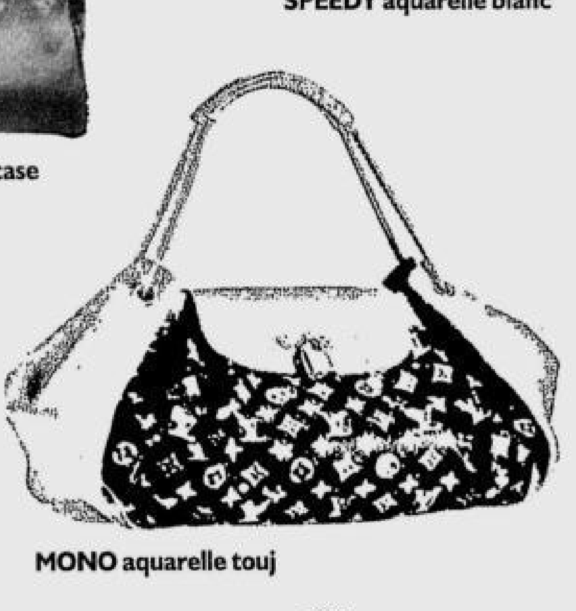


JOKES shopping case

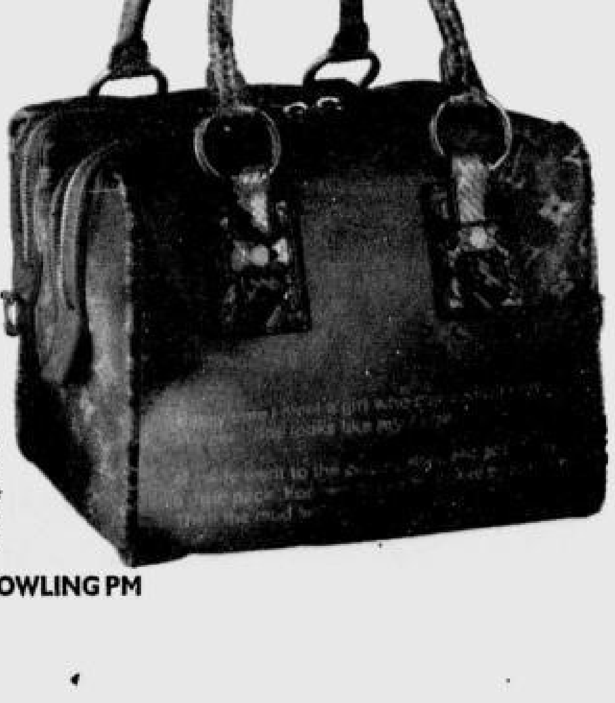


SPEEDY aquarelle blanc

Marc Jacobs and artist Richard Prince collaborate for LV's 2008 collection



MONO aquarelle touj



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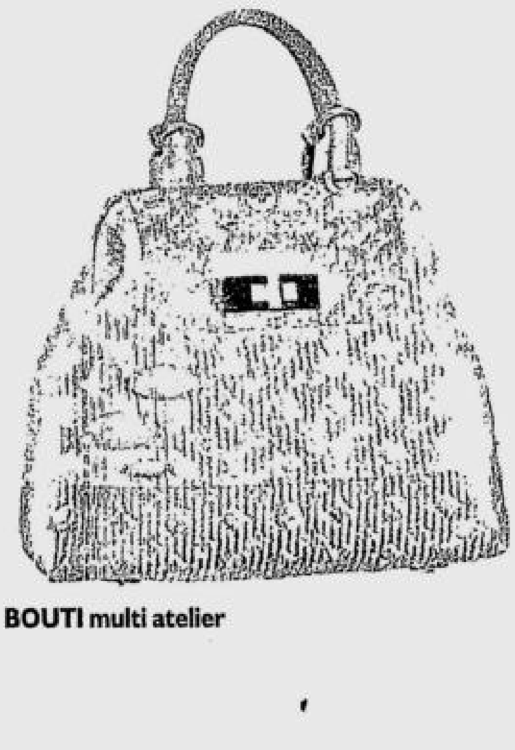
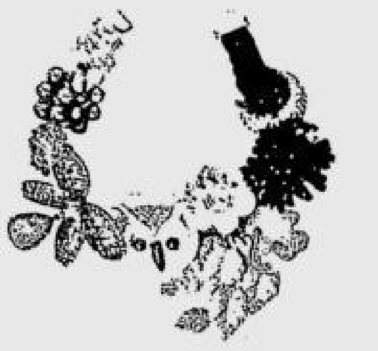
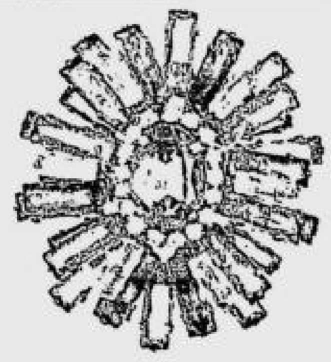
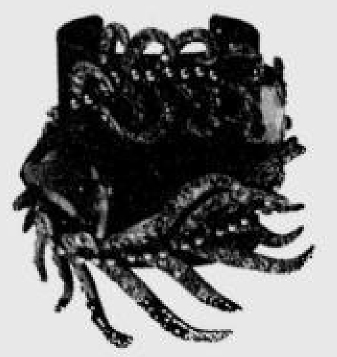


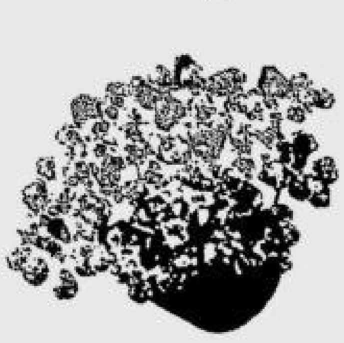
BOUTI multi atelier

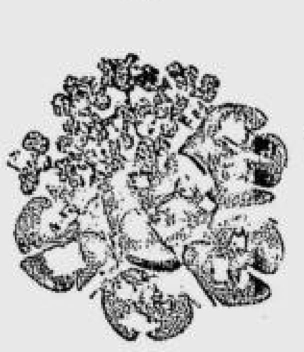
awesome accesories awesome accesories awesome accesories

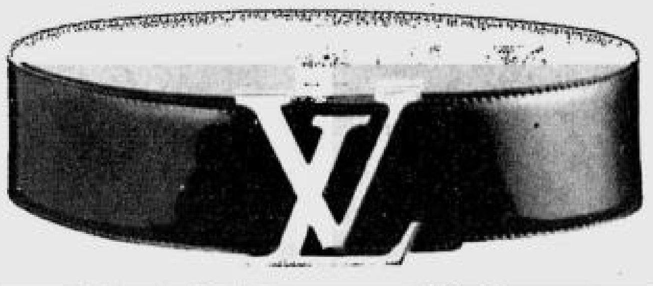




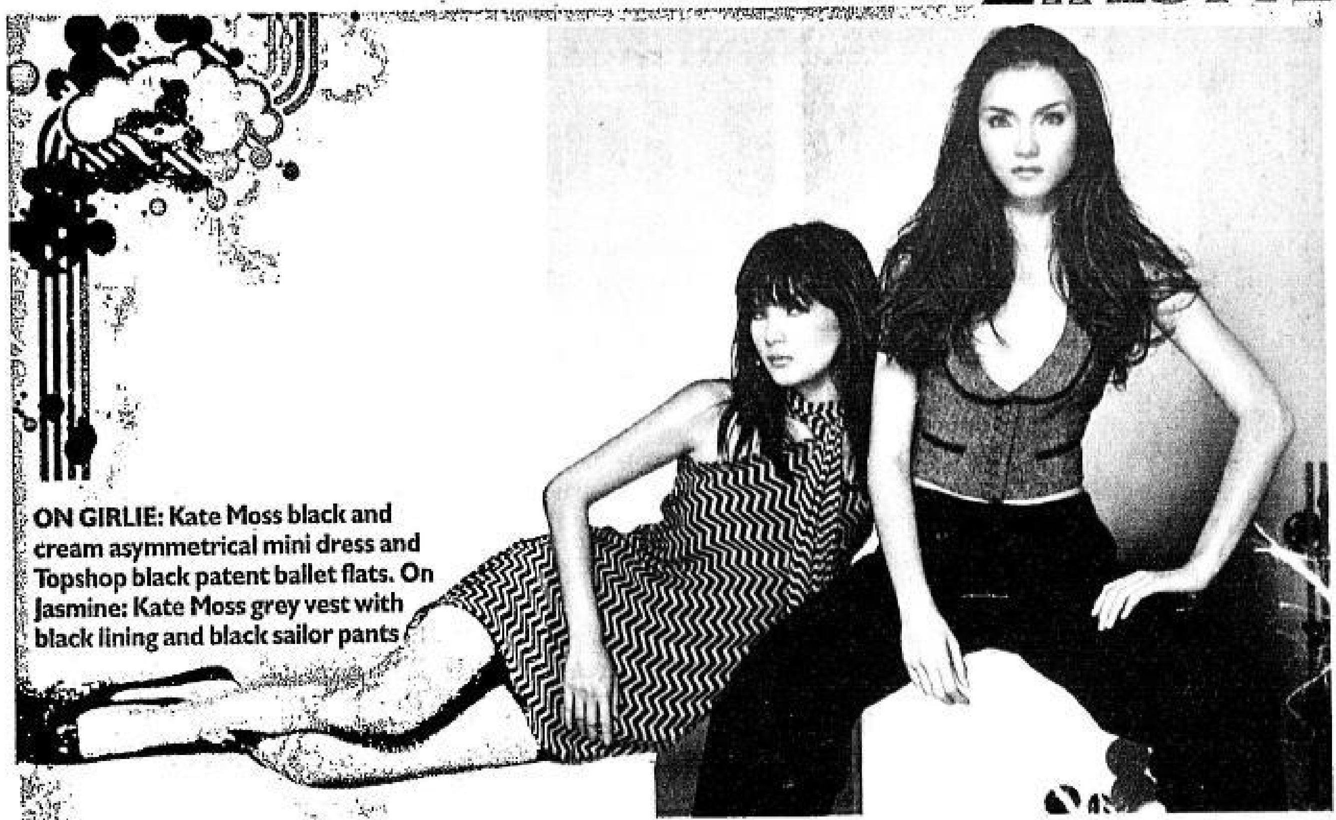




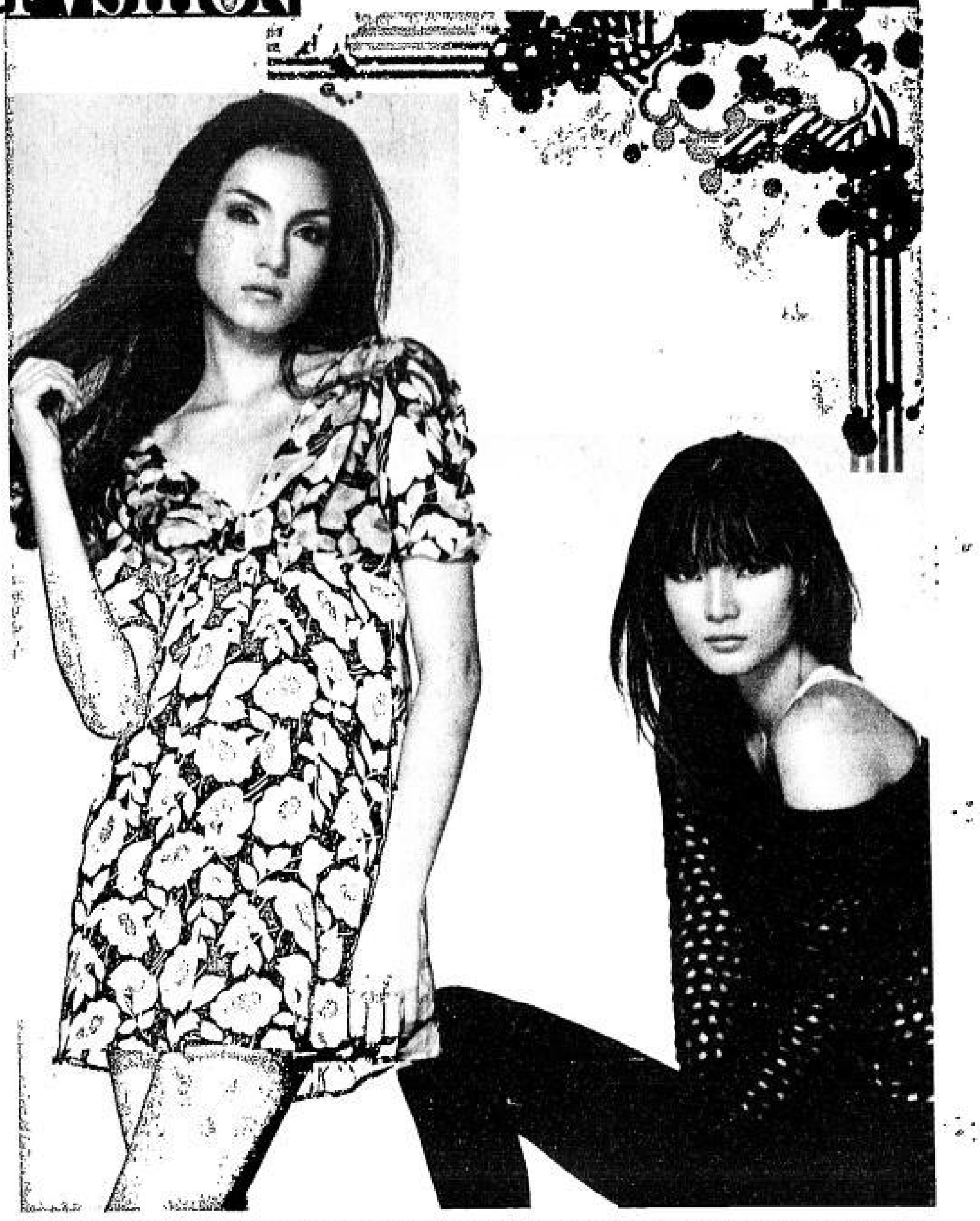




Show off shoes Show off shoes Show off shoes Show off shoes



ON GIRLIE: Kate Moss black and cream asymmetrical mini dress and Topshop black patent ballet flats. On Jasmine: Kate Moss grey vest with black lining and black sailor pants



ON JASMINE: Kate Moss V-neck floral dress. On Girlie: Kate Moss basic yellow tank top and black knit dress

Topping off Kate Moss

FASHION ICON KATE MOSS AND British brand Topshop have collaborated once again to design an eclectic capsule collection of signature pieces for Autumn/Winter and Christmas 2007. Inspired by Kate's wardrobe, the range mirrors an edgy but sophisticated attitude that perfectly captures the supermodel's enviable sense of style.

Punk-inspired pieces in sleek wet-look fabrics and metallic knits are juxtaposed with classic 1970's A-line silhouettes, while floor-sweeping lace gowns and high-gloss flapper dresses are intricately beaded.

A black woolen waistcoat-jacket is structured with cropped sleeves, while cream and grey chiffon billowing pirate blouses are relaxed with long ties and long sleeves. Casual fine jersey Ts bear intricate layers of dark beading and mini dresses in fine wools are cut out or embellished about the neckline with studs or jewels.

High-waisted, wide-leg 1970s style trousers in newly developed caramel and rainbow "bird's eye" tweed match a jacket with tiny pockets and a cinched waist. Soft knit candy floss-pink and blue knit tank tops are worn over preppy pin-striped shirts tucked in high on the waist. Perfect jersey basics in bright vegetable colors, and a classic black trench and washed denim "Chrissie" drainpipe jeans in indigo or black are timeless.

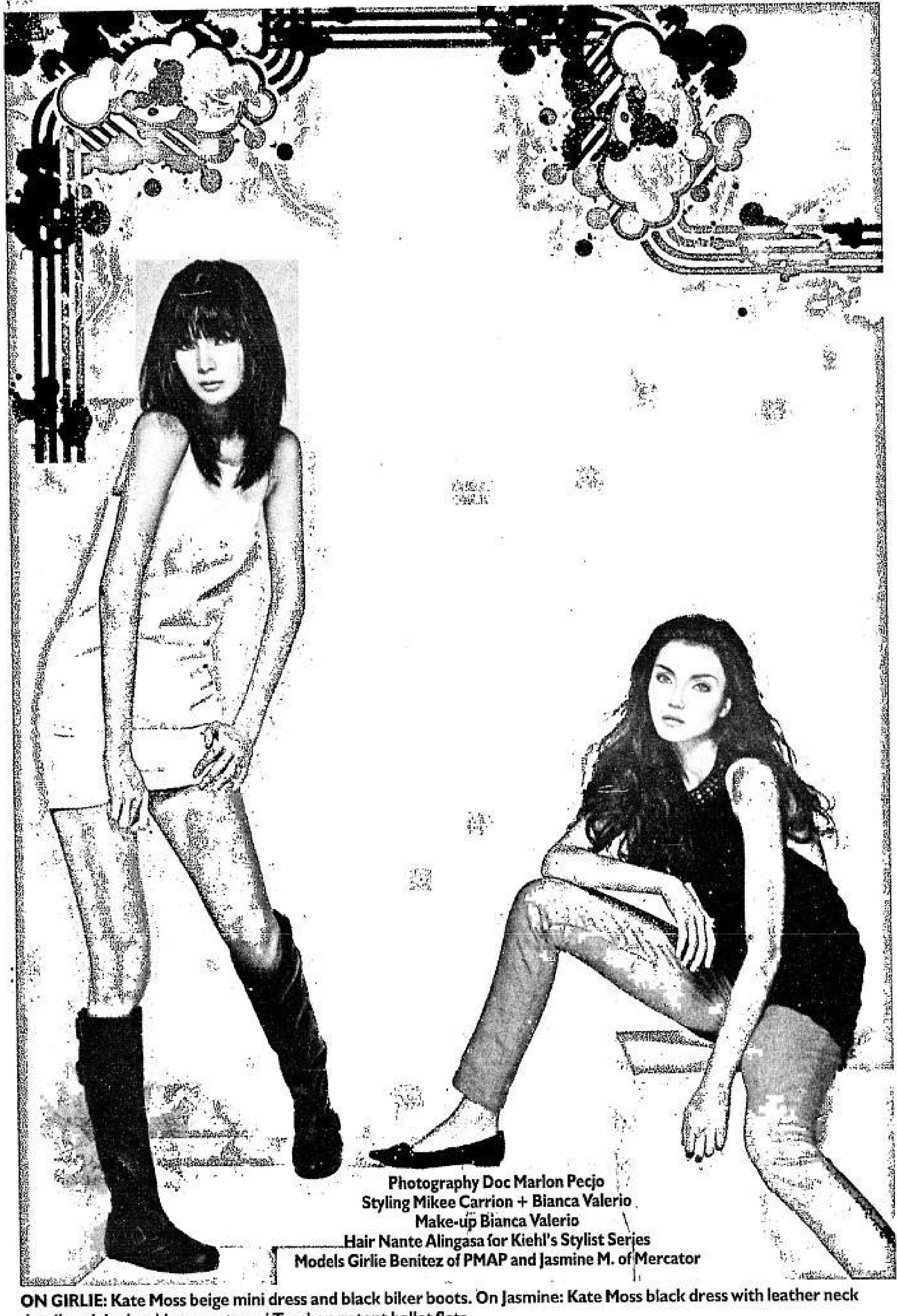
A liquid-pewter maxi-length T-shirt dress, similar to what Kate is seen wearing in stolen paparazzi shots, is also a part of the collection. It may be coupled with jet-black rubberized drainpipe jeans and charcoal metallic-woolen jacket finished with black trim that provides contrasting textures. Anyone but anyone can echo Kate's cool nonchalant but fashionable look. For a bit of luxury, the range includes a classic black leather jacket made with the softest tumbled leather.

Party dresses make up a key part of this collection. A shimmering midnight blue sequined flapper dress has a shredded hem while colored pearl beads adorn a short deco-style dress. A dark gold Studio 54-style playsuit and demure pale gold halter-neck satin dress are effortlessly glamorous while bugle beads decorate a pleated crepe-chiffon little black dress.

Reflecting Kate's tattoos, swallows appear on enamel coat buttons on denim hems, lending a personal touch. Printed chiffon scarves in swallow prints are in red and cream with fine black patent belts and high-heeled black sandals bear chunky gold chains. Vintage-style embroidered clip frame purses contrast tough structured patent leather and natural leather box-bags.

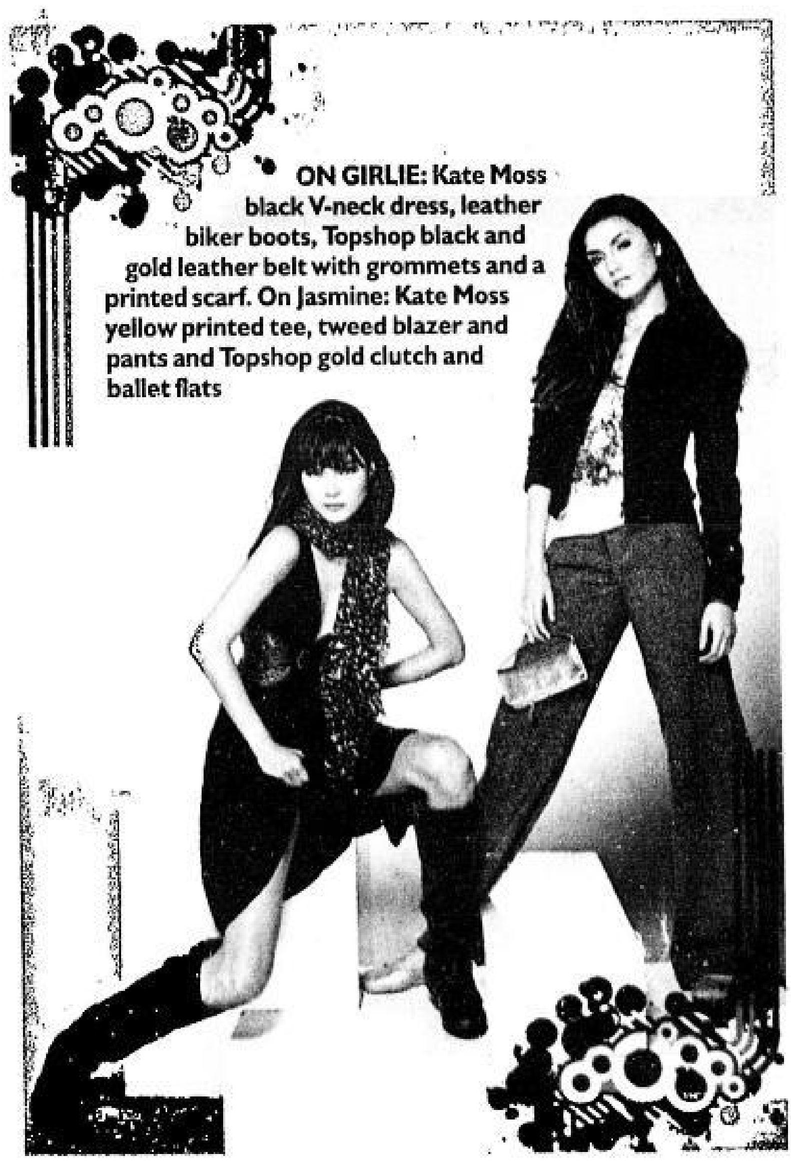
Visit topshop.com to view their exclusive video pod casts for a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the collection.

Robinsons Specialty Stores, Inc. is the exclusive franchisee of Topshop, Wallis, Warehouse, Topman, and Dorothy Perkins in the Philippines.

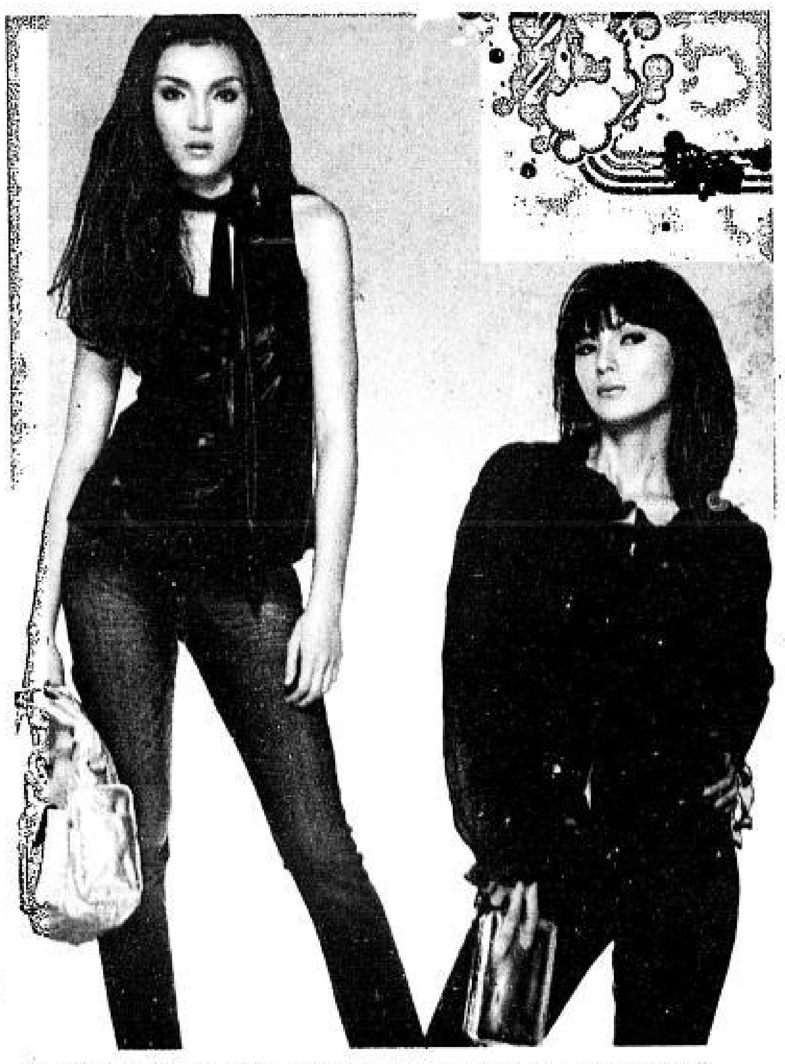


Photography Doc Marlon Pecjo
Styling Mikee Carrion + Bianca Valerio
Make-up Bianca Valerio
Hair Nante Alingasa for Kiehl's Stylist Series
Models Girlie Benitez of PMAP and Jasmine M. of Mercator

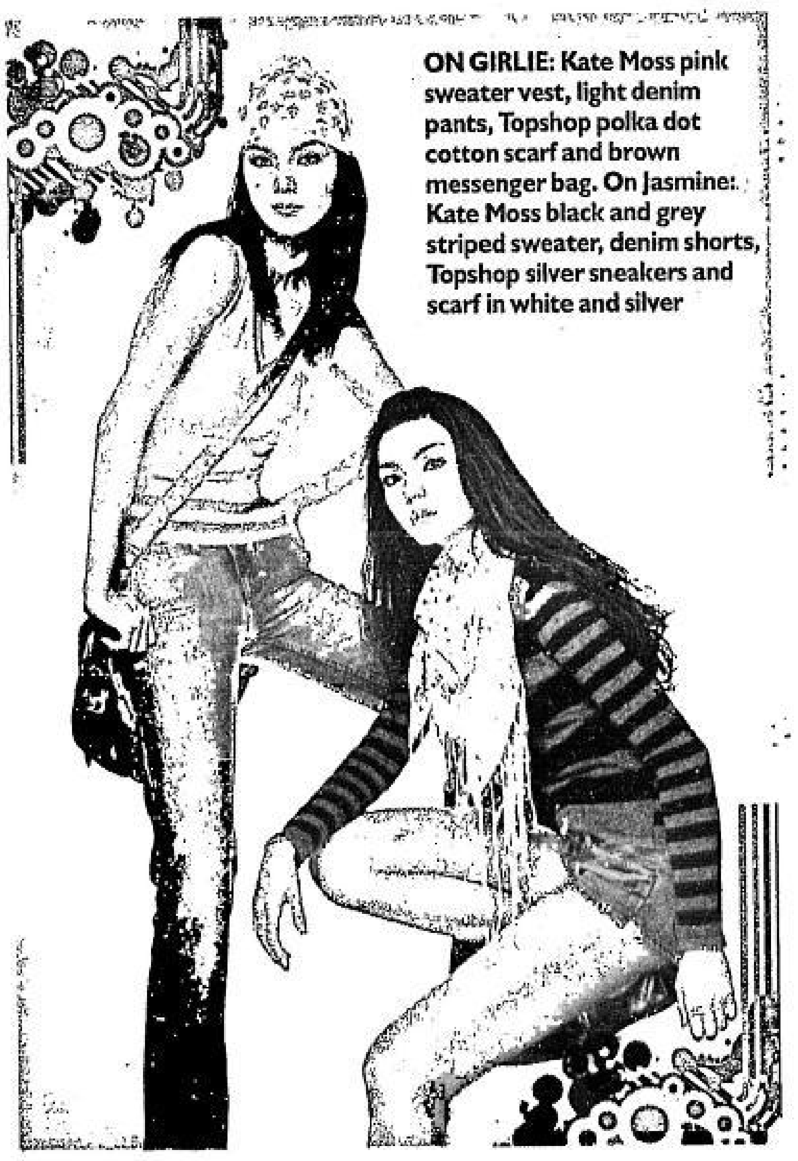
ON GIRLIE: Kate Moss beige mini dress and black biker boots. On Jasmine: Kate Moss black dress with leather neck detail, red denim skinny pants and Topshop patent ballet flats



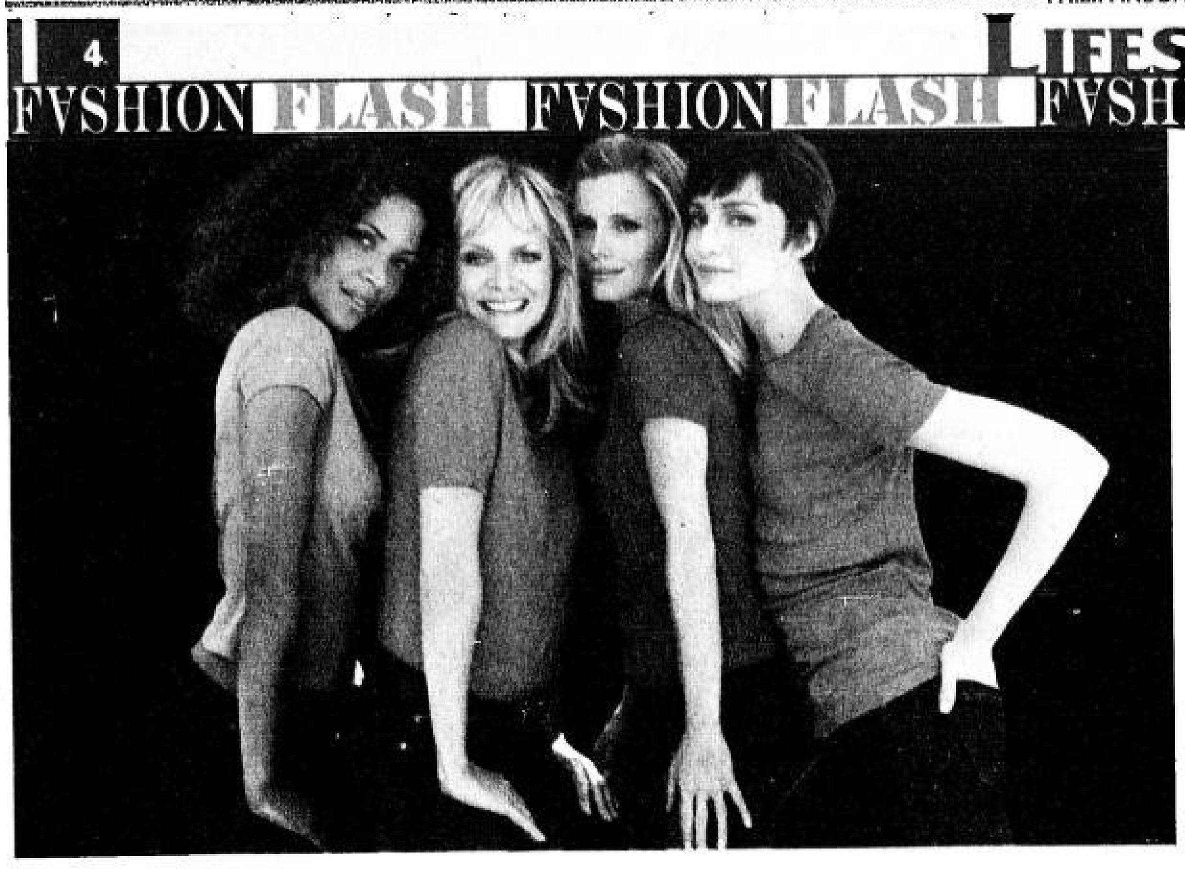
ON GIRLIE: Kate Moss black V-neck dress, leather biker boots, Topshop black and gold leather belt with grommets and a printed scarf. On Jasmine: Kate Moss yellow printed tee, tweed blazer and pants and Topshop gold clutch and ballet flats



ON JASMINE: Kate Moss black shimmer top with ribbon detail, classic blue denim in faded finish and Topshop metallic handbag. On Girlie: Kate Moss black chiffon peasant top, black denim and Topshop silver clutch



ON GIRLIE: Kate Moss pink sweater vest, light denim pants, Topshop polka dot cotton scarf and brown messenger bag. On Jasmine: Kate Moss black and grey striped sweater, denim shorts, Topshop silver sneakers and scarf in white and silver



T-shirts for a cause

MARKS & SPENCER IS COMmitted to responsible sourcing so it now offers Fairtrade-certified cotton products.

Fairtrade certification gives customers guarantee that the farmers who produce the product get a fair price for their crop plus a Fairtrade premium, which is invested into their community. The additional premium is set aside for farmers' organizations to spend on social and environmental projects or to strengthen their businesses. This ensures that communities have the power and resources to invest in long-term improvements.

The Fairtrade cotton fiber found in Marks & Spencer products comes from a group of small-scale farmers called Agrocel in the State of Gujarat in India. Agrocel decides which development projects to invest their Fairtrade premium in. So far, Agrocel has selected to use the premium on health-insurance schemes for farmers and a health-awareness program for local school children.

Aside from making you feel good that the cotton farmers have received a price that provides a decent income and a little extra to invest in a better future for their families and communities, buying a Marks & Spencer Fairtrade-certified cotton T-shirt is value for your money because the women's shirt only costs P695 while the men's shirt starts at P595.

Marks & Spencer stores are located at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center, Power Plant Mall, Gateway Mall, SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, SM North Edsa, SM Pampanga, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, TriNoma and Ayala Center Cebu.

Chic holiday look

HOLIDAY 2007 IS ABOUT modern proportions with a mix of fresh shapes and classic lines. Sophisticated soft wool embellishes dresses while swing sweaters are paired with cords and easy denim. Color is key with a vibrant palette that's both purposeful and playful. Liz Claiborne celebrates fun feminine fashion for women who want to shine for the holidays.

The season turns up the volume on shape with fuller tunic-length dresses and jackets complemented by modern bracelet sleeves. Longer looks are belted and gathered in interesting ways for defying style. Lush cashmere sweaters include sleeveless, splitneck and cardigan styles.

Color is brilliant with saturated tones of bright cobalt, emerald green and amethyst grounded in gorgeous grays, blacks, and whites. Classic cream and shimmering silver offer a fresh, festive perspective.

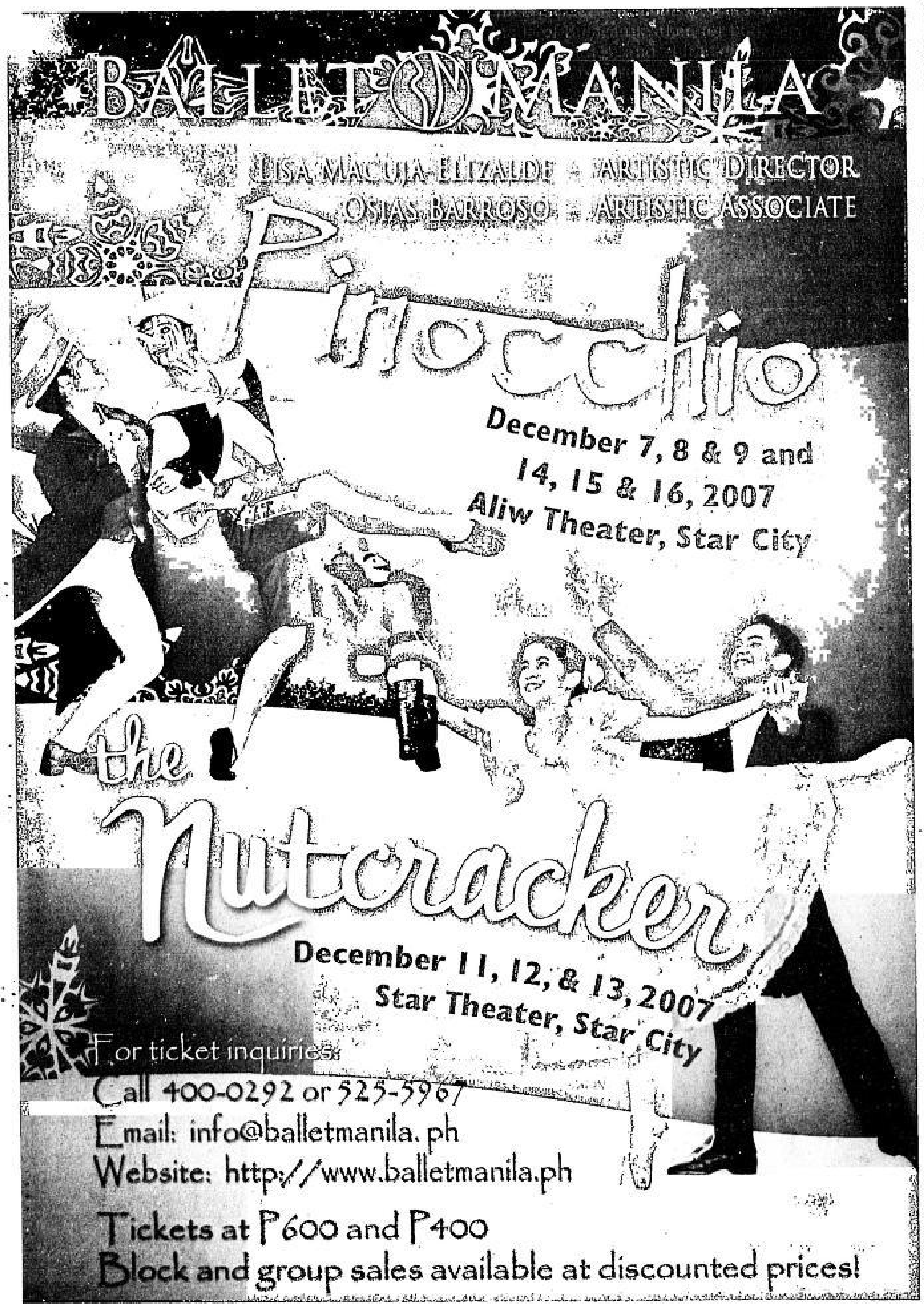
It's all about texture and sophisticated shine with breezy silk faille, soft cashmere, gauzy lightweight wool and glossy patent leather. Water-resistant fabrics add a modern, sporty twist to the mix.

Details include pleats, self-belts, gathering and unique embellishments like opulent oversized beading. Exaggerated prints make a beautifully bold holiday statement.

Liz Claiborne is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. with shops at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, The Power Plant Mall and TriNoma.

PURPLE reigns

MIX brilliant colors like emerald and cobalt with basic black for a chic holiday look.


BALLET MANILA
LISA MACUJA-ELIZALDE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
OSIAS BARROSO - ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE
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14, 15 & 16, 2007
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the Nutcracker
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FASHION BUZZ
Hot, haute, hot news!

New designer to 'make chicks tick' for Ungaro

DESIGNER Esteban Cortazar

AFP

PARIS—FRANCE'S PRESTIGIOUS LUXURY fashion house Emanuel Ungaro is bringing in a 23-year-old Colombian-born Briton who works in the US to freshen up its women's collections, the company's chief executive said Friday.

Esteban Cortazar "knows what makes a chick tick and that's important in our business," the head of the Paris house, Mounir Moufarrige, told AFP.

The new designer is a Bogota-born British national who moved to the US at the age of 11 and trotted out his first collection under his name in New York in 2003.

Since founder-couturier Ungaro departed in 2005, the company has seen three successive designers, the last being Norwegian Peter Dundas, who was waved off last July with Moufarrige saying at the time the venerable house "needs shock therapy." Asked whether Cortazar had the age and experience needed to give the venerable 40-year label a shot in the arm, Moufarrige cited Facebook founder Mark Zucherberg's 22 years and billion-dollar success story.

And it was Moufarrige who picked Stella McCartney for Chloe when she was only 24.

"It's not his age that counts," he said. Cortazar's use of color, his Latin roots and "great feel for a woman's body" made him the ideal candidate to "translate Ungaro DNA into something modern."

"Ungaro is a seduction brand," said Moufarrige. "Doing beautiful pieces isn't enough. Everyone does beautiful pieces, unless it's different no one will notice."

The high-fashion manager has a proven track record in luxury goods, raising the Montblanc pen franchise to international icon status as well as developing the Dunhill and Chloe marks.

He took over as chief executive in March last year and is a shareholder in the US investment fund AIMZ—owned by Pakistan-born Asim Abdullah, a US-based high-tech entrepreneur—which has owned Ungaro since the end of 2005.

Founded in 1965 by Emanuel Ungaro, the brand famed for brightly colored floral prints includes women's and men's wear, accessories and perfumes.

Revenues have been estimated at US$250 million (170 million euros) yearly including licensing, but Moufarrige declined comment on the figure. *AFP*

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Alfred, on breakup with LJ

THE ACTOR GRANTS INQUIRER ENTERtainment an exclusive on his breakup with LJ Reyes—a show biz controversy that has been stewing in *chismis* shows for the past three weeks. At one point, LJ had to scamper from a TV crew that wanted to interview her on the subject. *Story on page J2.*

It's classic rock, and it still works

Visiting '70s band America woos and wins RP fans–again

By Pocholo Concepcion

GERRY Beckley, right, and Dewey Bunnell.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"THESE ARE NOT OLDIES. IT'S CLASSIC rock; there's a difference," said Gerry Beckley midway into America's well-attended concert Tuesday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Beckley, one of three founding members of the 1970s folk-rock group, could be right. If oldies music makes fans feel old, classic rock keeps them young—dismissing age as a state of mind.

The gig, the band's third of four Philippine dates in an ongoing tour, attracted some 10,000 people. Many of them were middle-aged couples who knew almost every song played. A woman in front of us couldn't contain her excitement—arms flailing as she danced in her seat—and prodded her reserved husband into joining the fun.

Beckley is 55 and Dewey Bunnell (the other original member) is 56. But their energy and passion belied their ages.

Of course the music had a lot to do with it. The opening riffs to "Ventura Highway," "Muskrat Love" and "Sister Golden Hair" each sent an echo of cheers from the crowd. Beckley who, Bunnell said, did most of their love songs, now had a more pronounced nasal twang. The two alternated on vocal parts while playing on acoustic guitars, with Beckley intermittently switching to electric.

The love tunes still connected resoundingly, however corny some of the lyrics now sound ("I need you/Like the flower needs the

IT'S CLASSIC/ J2

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SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

The end of the af

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE TOUGHEST, ALFRED
Vargas says, was waking u
in the morning and seei
constant reminders of fo
mer girlfriend LJ Reyes in h
bedroom.

"I had to hide some of her
always difficult, coping after
ship ends," he explains.

Not an easy task, to be sur
fred and LJ's homes are stu
souvenirs from their one-
year romance—stuffed toy
photos, even a 3-D caricatu
gave her during happier time

Breaking his silence

It's his first time to talk
split-up, Alfred says, and he i
his silence "to set the recor
and shield her from intrigu
handle prying, but she's very

He recalls how awful he fe
was ambushed for an intervi
GMA 7 chat show "Showbiz
few weeks back. LJ was caug
fleeing the newshounds.

Days later, they bumped

Chri

THE UNIVERSITY OF
Tomas presents "A Sym
Carols: The UST Christ
cert 2007" tonight, 6:3
the UST Church (S

It's class

rain..."), which probably m
sure of a good pop song t
more on hooks and melodie

This was true of "Muskr
"Tin Man," especially the lat
cryptic lines (So please beli

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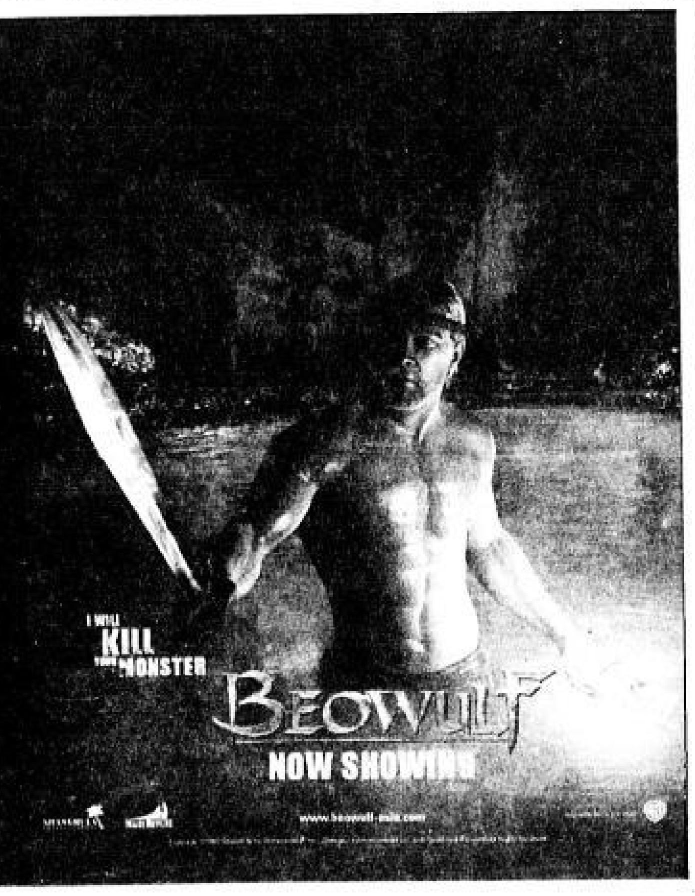

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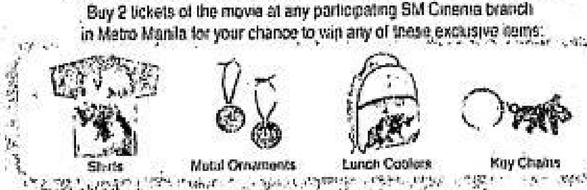

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8 ONE MORE CHANCE

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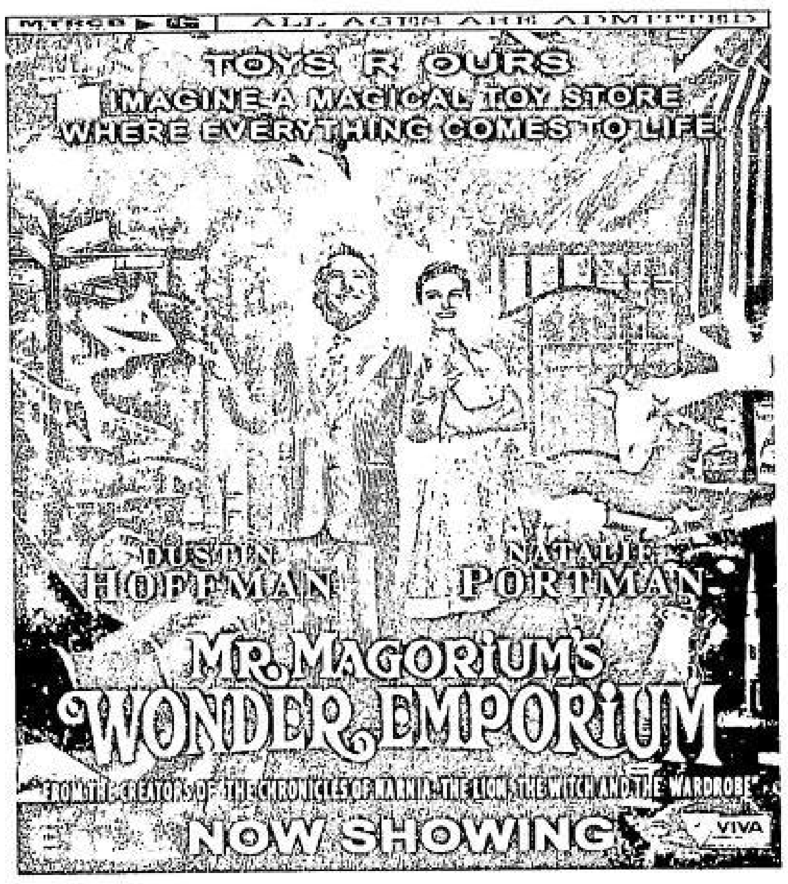
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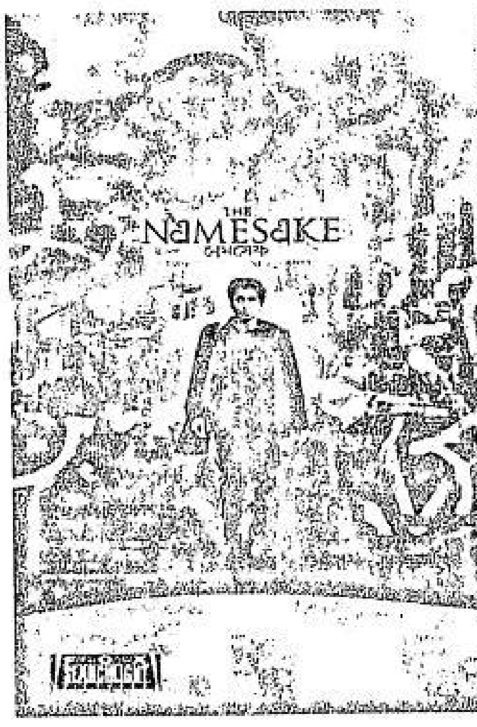

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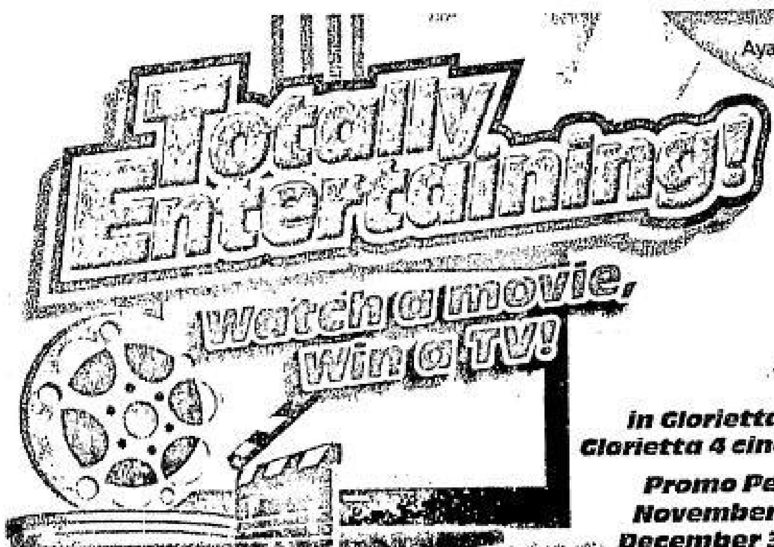
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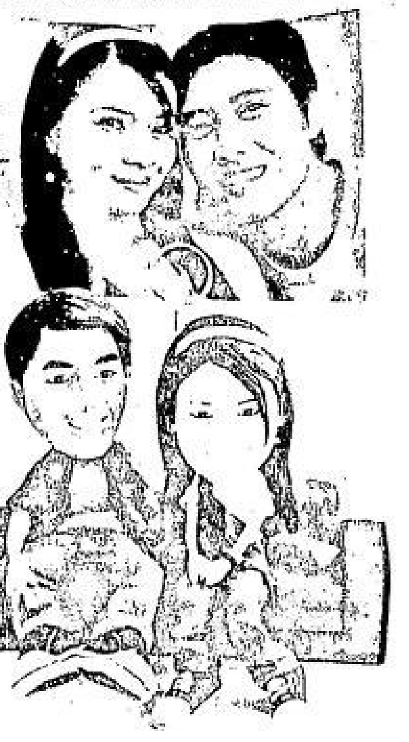

PHOTO and 3D caricature in LJ's room ROGER CARPIO

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Finally, Alfred Vargas talks about his recent breakup with LJ Reyes

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other in an advertising event and they were cornered by TV reporters.

"That was awkward and weird," he recounts.

It took them over three weeks before deciding that Alfred should make the formal announcement in INQUIRER Entertainment.

He is aware that people may accuse him of using personal troubles to gain publicity for his movie "Banal," an entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival.

"I cannot control what other people will say," he says. "But I'll be honest with them."

Meanwhile, he is glad they've remained friends. "LJ is my best friend in show biz now," he says.

Mutual decision

So why separate at all?

Alfred says it was a mutual decision. "We drifted apart. We fought hard to stay together … but we were simply too busy."

On top of "Banal," he is juggling two Kapuso shows, "My Only Love" and "Nuts Entertainment"; while she's in the cast of GMA 7's "Zaido" and QTV's "Camera Café."

"She also wants to focus on her studies," he notes. It's not true, he has realized, that "absence makes the heart grow fonder." After a while, he says, it also "makes the heart wonder." He quickly backtracks: "Wonder *ha*, not wander."

Lastly, he clarifies: "There's no third party involved."

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ic rock…

From page J1

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Great outdoors

America is also known for its celebration of the great outdoors—the sprawling environment that inspired "Don't Cross the River," "Venture Highway," "Horse with No Name," among others.

At some point in the concert, a song about the members' impressions of tinseltown, "Hollywood," was also played. It was an edgy rock piece that featured a searing guitar solo from Michael Woods who, together with bassist Rich Campbell and drummer Willie Leacox comprise America's current lineup.

More than 20 songs, mostly hits, plus new material were played, with a feel-good, '70s atmosphere climaxing in "Sister Golden Hair" (music inspired by George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord").

Authentic atmosphere

The people around helped make the atmosphere authentic: Marcos siblings, Bongbong and Imee, having a good time in the same venue where former martial law exile Ramon Jacinto had earlier played (with Nyoy Volante and Noel Cabangon) as opening act.

Daniel Craig bares new…

From page J4

pointed at his suit's lapels) but if you keep things fairly classic, I think it works. That's my fashion tip of the week.

Nicole Kidman told us that your kissing scene in "The Golden Compass" ended on the cutting room floor.

Oh, well.

Do you think that kissing scene will be shot again if there's going to be a second installment?

I don't think so (laughter).

What can you tell us?

Just plans for now. We'll cross that bridge when we get to it. It's a very important scene that didn't make it in the movie for a very good reason—it's a very distressing moment. The way the movie ends now, it's more of a cliffhanger which makes us feel that we need to continue the story. That's a cynical way of looking at it but if we ended on that moment that includes the kiss, it would have been a horrible moment to end the movie.

If you had a golden compass which tells the truth and the future, what would you ask?

Nothing at all. I would never use the golden compass. The world would unravel very quickly if we had one of those.

If you could go on an expedition just like your character Lord Asriel does, where would you go?

I'd love to make a trip to Antarctica. There are a few other places that I'd love to go to. Madagascar is one of them.

You've done a few films dealing with the Holocaust or touching on Jewish history, including "Defiance." Was this by coincidence or was it a conscious choice on your part?

Sadly, what happened in the Second World War is not the end of the story. There is genocide occurring today. A movie like "Defiance," which is about survival and how humanity wins, is a good story to tell. That's a simple answer to that. But I have an emotional connection to the story. I grew up in Europe.

What do you miss doing now that more people recognize you since you played James Bond?

Just the small things. I can't go and sit in a pub for very long without somebody hassling me. But nothing that I would complain about because I also get huge benefits out of playing Bond. I can't really complain about the fact that I can't sit in the pub for longer than two pints because I can drink two pints quite quickly so that's fine (laughter).

Is that all you miss, not being able to go to a pub?

Does it sound kind of puerile? It probably does but it's true. I can't go and visit very public places, like there's an exhibit down at the Tate Modern. Thankfully, it's balanced out. I was in Madrid last year and we got a private viewing at the Prado Museum.

Are you more physically fit now?

I'm knackered. But I'm fitter than I was. I've started training again for the next Bond movie. One of the reasons that I really have to get fit for a movie is that because if I'm not fit, I get injuries. But I don't diet. I eat what I want.

You have a big birthday coming up next year.

Maybe (laughter). I'm really private about this. Yeah, I'm 39.

Are you thinking about this big milestone?

I don't know. I'm thankfully working next year when I'm 40. It will pass by. It will go. Someone actually said to me yesterday that turning 40 is not a problem, it's turning 41 that is. So we'll see (laughter).

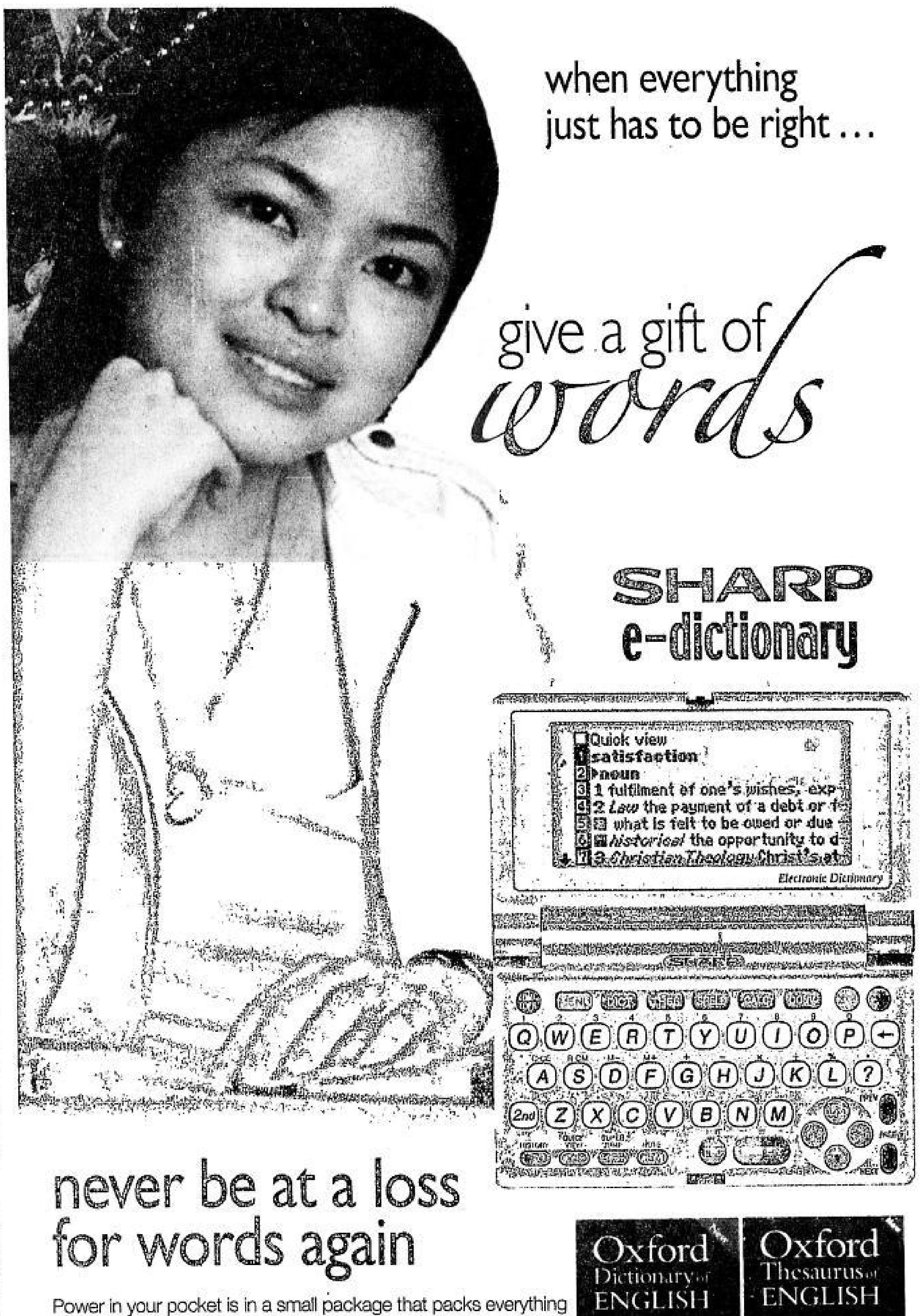
What will be a good way of surprising you on your birthday?

Are you going to surprise me? What are you planning (laughter)?

No, but what birthdays were memorable for you?

It wasn't a very good birthday if I could remember it (laughter).

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.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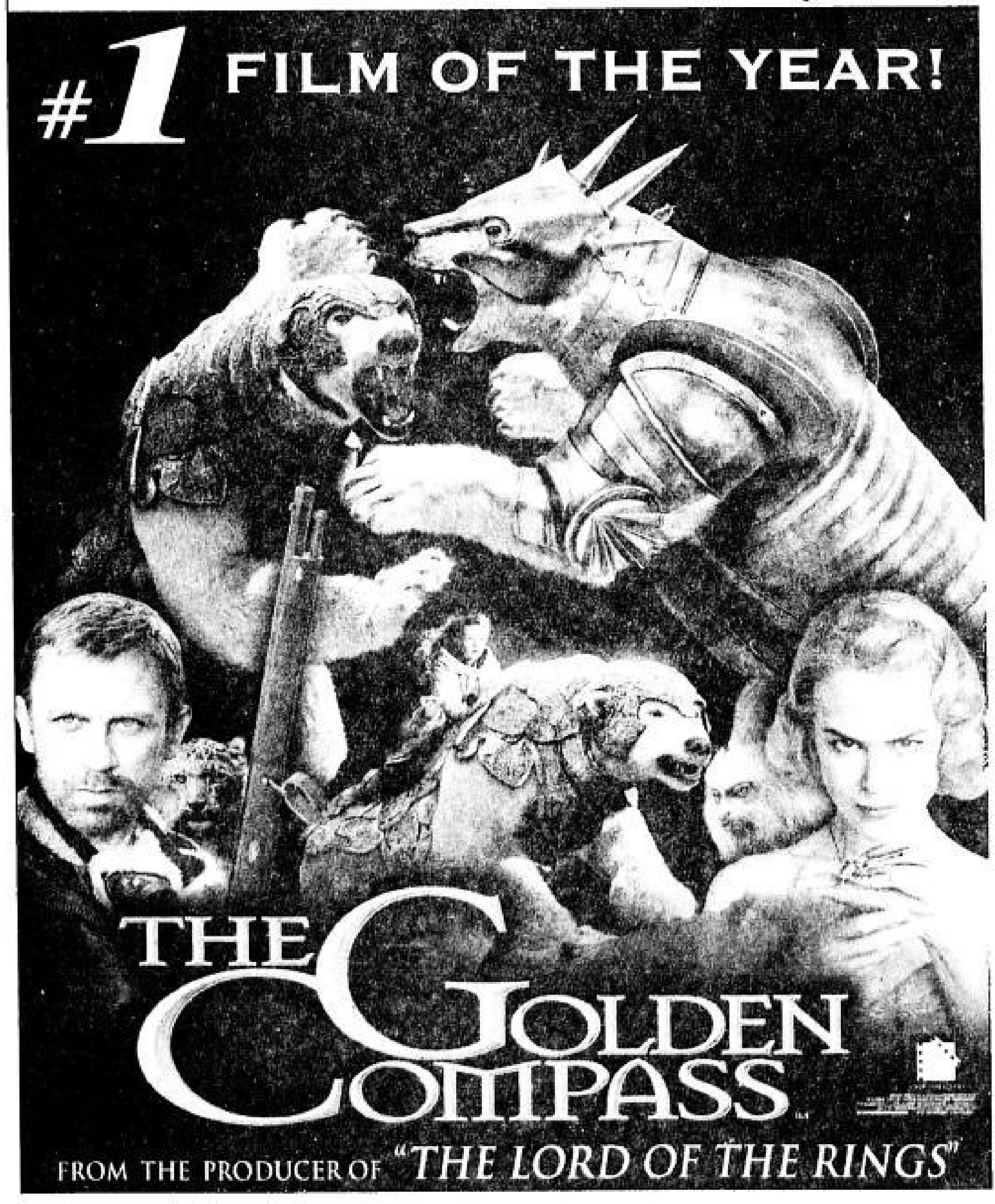
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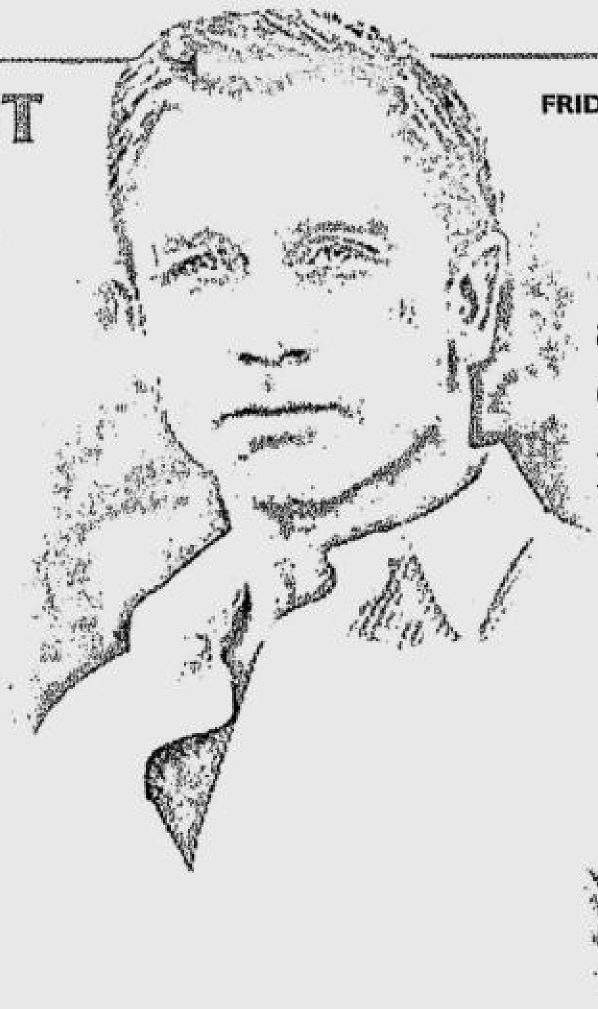
Daniel Craig bares new Bond film details

...but is coy about his Christmas plans



NO WORRIES about being typecast as James Bond

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—OH, WHAT SUCCESS does to some actors! They learn a word that's anathema to journalists: privacy.

When they are just starting, they blabber on and on. But when they become famous, they suddenly learn to say, "That's private. I won't talk about that anymore."

While we respect the stars' right to privacy, as journalists we think "privacy" is, well, almost like a curse word.

In a recent London press con, **Daniel Craig**, hugely successful as the new James Bond in "Casino Royale," did not want to talk about his Christmas plans, among other things. While we thought, "Good for you!" we also commiserated with several reporters who groused after the interview, "What happened to Daniel Craig?"

In the following excerpts of our interview with the star of "The Golden Compass" (the film version of the first book in Philip Pullman's trilogy), we did not bother to include the "witty repartee" between Daniel and a few reporters over his polite refusal to answer certain questions. To his credit, the actor was generally playful and his British wit never failed him.

Have you started working on the next James Bond film?

I've started rehearsing. This is kind of a little break for me.

When you were first cast as James Bond, some folks made really rude comments that they didn't see you as Bond at all. How did you cope with that?

I genuinely just got on with the job. I didn't make the decision to do the film, not knowing that there would be criticism. I knew I would be attacked. I knew that people would question—why change? Why move on? Why do this? I settled everything I could in my mind. I knew that we had a good script, good director, great cast and we were going to make a good movie. Beyond that, there's nothing else I could do. I certainly wouldn't respond to the criticisms now because there are bigger problems in life.

Are you glad to be a rougher kind of Bond?

I think he's quite sophisticated in my mind (laughter).

Are you worried that you will be typecast as James Bond?

I don't find it a particular problem. If it is, it's a very high class problem to have. I've been continuing. "The Golden Compass" is the third movie I've done this year which has nothing to do with James Bond.

Marc Forster told us in an interview that one of the reasons he is directing the next Bond movie is that because he respects you so much as an actor.

I will throw the compliment right back at him. If you look at Marc's body of work, from "Monster's Ball" and "Finding Neverland" to "The Kite Runner," he's incredibly versatile.

So how do you feel about this next Bond film?

I'm over the moon. Aside from Marc, we've got **Dennis Gassner**, who's also the production designer of "The Golden Compass." I've worked with him in "Road to Perdition." We've got the same stunt team we had before. The sets are being built at Pinewood as we speak. The locations have been set. We're getting the cast together. I am raring to go.

What are your expectations?

We made a good movie last time. It was very successful, which was obviously a huge bonus. The problem is, we have to make a better one this time.

What lessons did you learn from being in a Bond movie?

I suppose what I got out of doing Bond was that the same problems arise. If a movie costs $10 million, it has its own problems, usually lack of money but if a movie has $250 million, it has problems as well. So you try and keep those problems to a minimum. The same rules apply. You have to commit. I'll tell you how tired I was after I finished the movie, but it was great to get to the end. I saw that the work I put in seems to have paid off. The day that it stops (paying off), then I'll have to re-think.

You are one of GQ magazine's Men of the Year. How much do you care about fashion?

It's the suit. I'm very lucky because suits are given to me. They are made for me which is a real joy. If you haven't had a suit made for you, I recommend at some stage in your life to have a suit done for you. I love good tailoring.

How has your fashion taste changed since playing James Bond?

Very little. I've always liked classic tailoring. Styles change and it's interesting to see how they do, but they're very subtle with men's tailoring. Sometimes the lapels get like this (he

DANIEL/ J2

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AT THE CINEMAS

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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GLORIETTA 4	ENCHANTED	THE KINGDOM	THX THE GOLDEN COMPASS GUARANTEED SEATS	THE NAMESAKE	THE HITMAN	THE GOLDEN COMPASS	GONE BABY GONE
GREENBELT 1	ENCHANTED	THE GOLDEN COMPASS					
GREENBELT 3	THX THE GOLDEN COMPASS GUARANTEED SEATS	THX THE GOLDEN COMPASS GUARANTEED SEATS	GONE BABY GONE GUARANTEED SEATS	EASTERN PROMISE GUARANTEED SEATS	FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX THE GOLDEN COMPASS	THE KINGDOM	EASTERN PROMISES	ENCHANTED	THE GOLDEN COMPASS		
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AT THE MALLS

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Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Philippine Madrigal Singers with Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez December 8; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park
GREENBELT	The Dawn Jazz Nights December 5; 7:30pm; Greenbelt 2 Al Fresco Area
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Southern Musicians Concert December 9; 5pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	FREE Christmas Gift Bag for every P500 worth of purchase. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-Cebu Permit No. 584, Series of 2007 December 1 to 31
MARKET! MARKET!	Christmas Shoes: A Christmas Musicale December 6; 7pm; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
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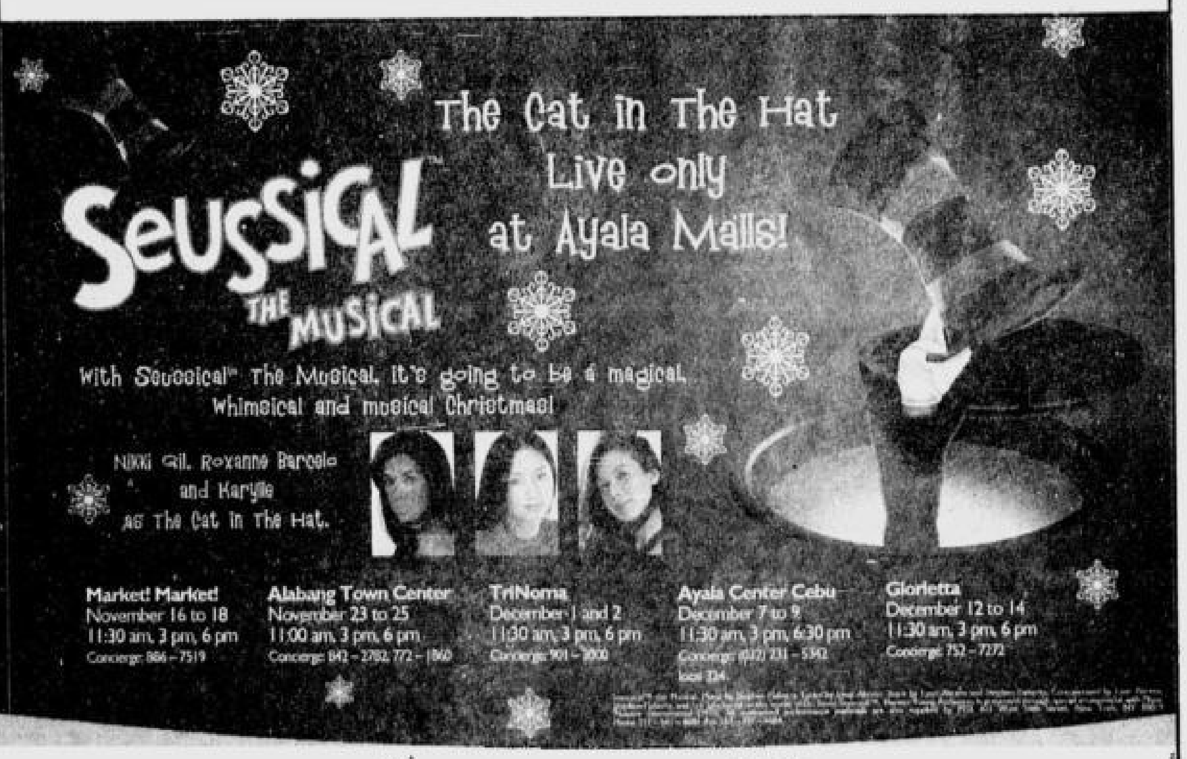

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LIVING Stars

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Piolo's pic-bio launched

THERE are bio-pics, but there's also such a thing, it turns out, as a pic-bio. Which is what Piolo Pascual, arguably the country's hottest male actor, has—a pictorial biography, launched during his recent concert at the Big Dome. More snaps on page K/3.

Dunkin' Donuts Christmas Hologram Tumblers

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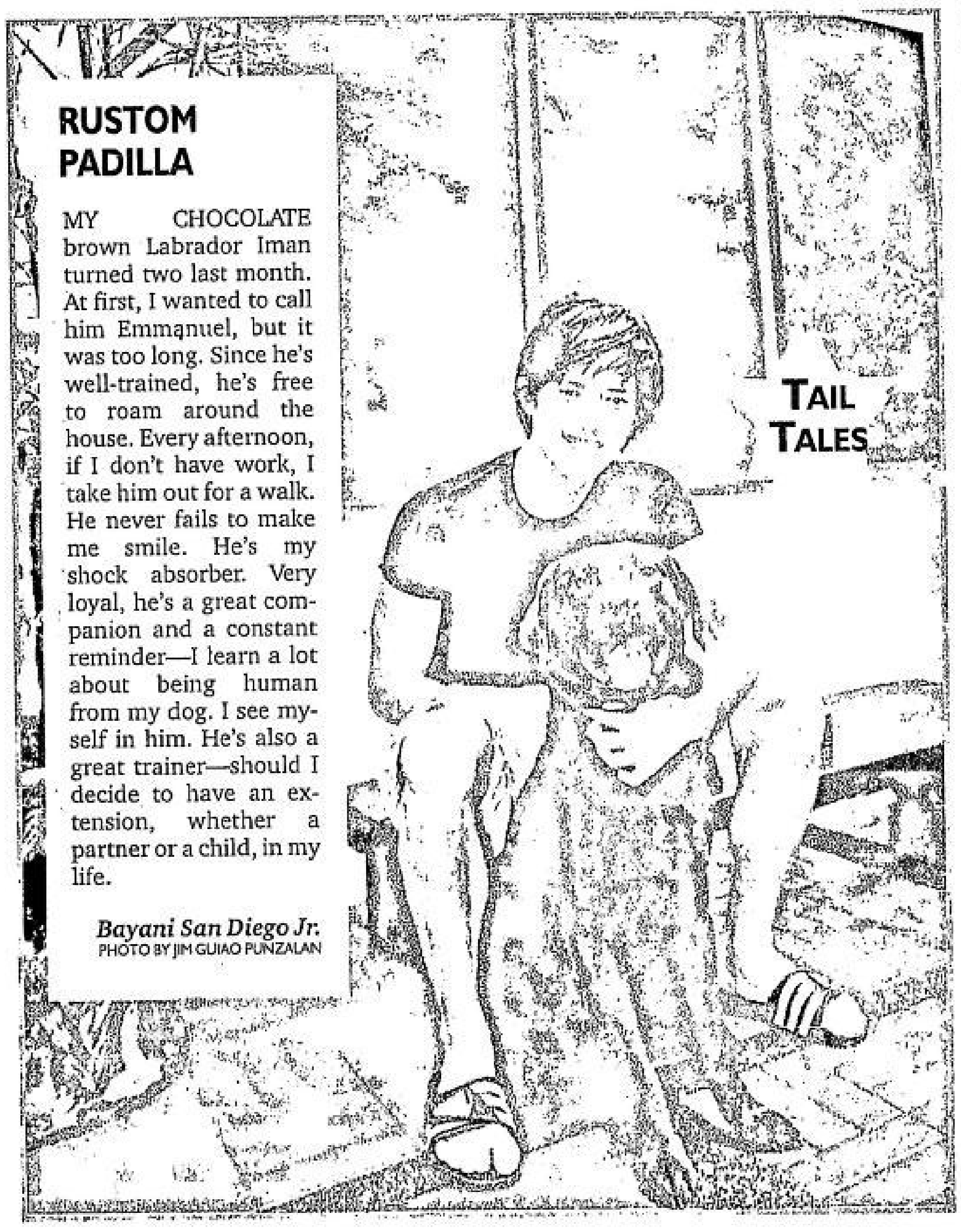
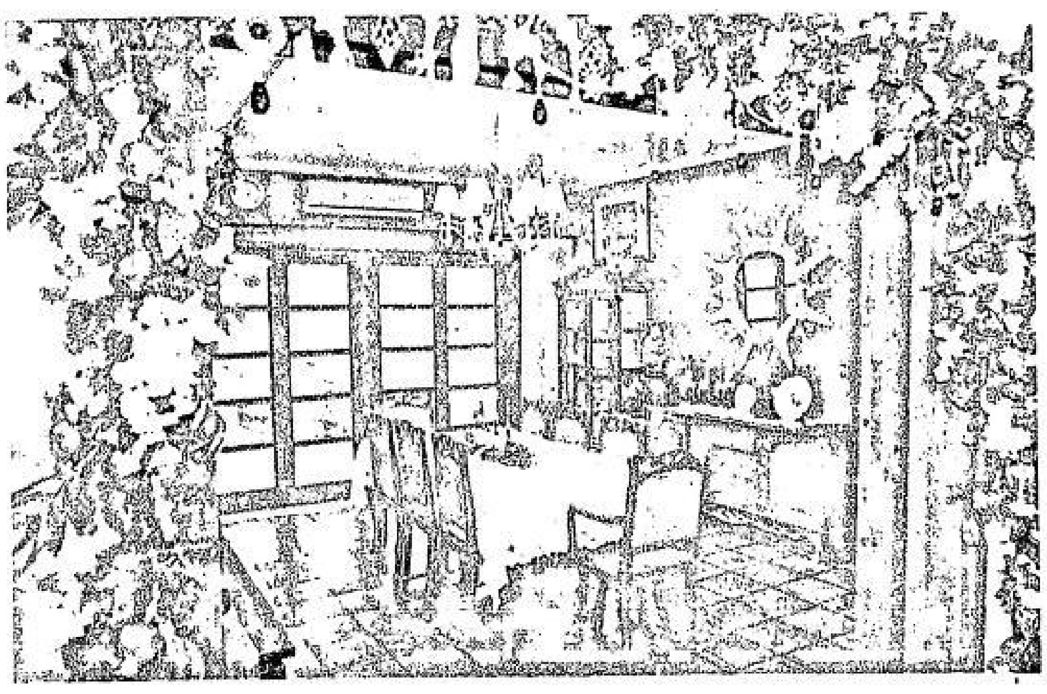


RUSTOM PADILLA

MY CHOCOLATE brown Labrador Iman turned two last month. At first, I wanted to call him Emmanuel, but it was too long. Since he's well-trained, he's free to roam around the house. Every afternoon, if I don't have work, I take him out for a walk. He never fails to make me smile. He's my shock absorber. Very loyal, he's a great companion and a constant reminder—I learn a lot about being human from my dog. I see myself in him. He's also a great trainer—should I decide to have an extension, whether a partner or a child, in my life.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



HOUSE OF MIRTH

GUESS WHICH lawyer couple owns this home? He's a radio commentator and aspiring interior designer. She's a TV host who's not into decorating at all. In comes a friend, also a lawyer, who willingly, and gleefully spruced up the house for the holidays. Page K/4.

BOOKS

ALJUR ABRENICA

I KEEP MOST OF MY BOOKS IN OUR HOUSE in Pampanga, but I have a few in Manila. I love reading "Harry Potter" and "Sherlock Holmes" books. I prefer love stories and mysteries. I enjoy reading about Harry Potter's adventures because they're thrilling. It's fun to imagine living in their magical world of wizards and warlocks. I actually prefer the "Harry Potter" books over the movie versions. Usually, some scenes found in the books are not in the movies. Plus, I get to understand the characters more in the novels.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY REM ZAMORA

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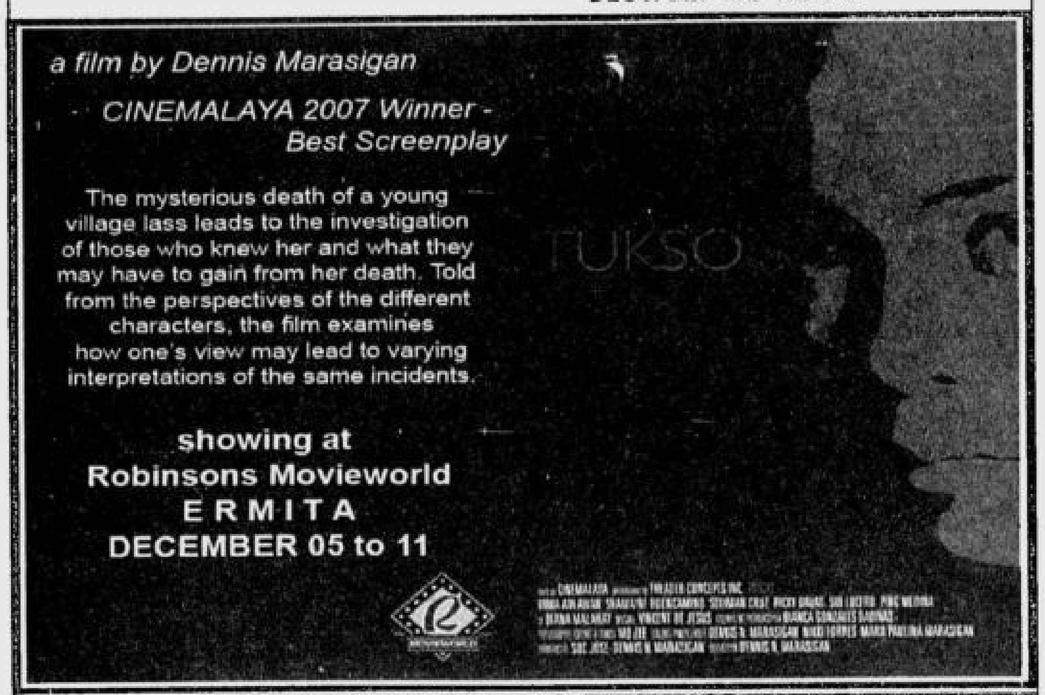
2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS 4:30 7:00 9:30
3 indieSine: KONTRA AGOS
4 EASTERN PROMISES 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
5 PASUKOB
6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 ENCHANTED 11:30 1:45
THE KINGDOM 4:00 6:15
8 BATANES 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
9 ONE MORE CHANCE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
10 HITMAN 12:40 2:40
BEOWULF 4:45 7:15 9:45



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3 BEOWULF 12:00 2:10 4:20
HITMAN 6:35 8:20 10:00
4 MR. MAGORIUM's 12:30 2:15
THE GOLDEN COMPASS 4:40 7:00 9:25
5 ONE MORE CHANCE 12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40
6 THE KINGDOM 11:35 1:40 3:45
ENCHANTED 5.50 7:55 10:00
7 PASUKOB 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:00

Midtown

1 EASTERN PROMISES 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00
2 BATANES 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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3 ONE MORE CHANCE 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:25 9:00
4 THE KINGDOM 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00
5 BEOWULF 12:30 2:35
HITMAN 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS 1:40 4:10 6:40
7 THE GOLDEN COMPASS 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
8 BATANES 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

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3 PASUKOB
4 BATANES

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2 FRED CLAUS
3 PASUKOB
4 BATANES

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3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 BATANES

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2 HITMAN
3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
4 PASUKOB
5 BATANES

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1 PASUKOB
2 THE KINGDOM
3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
4 BATANES

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3 BATANES

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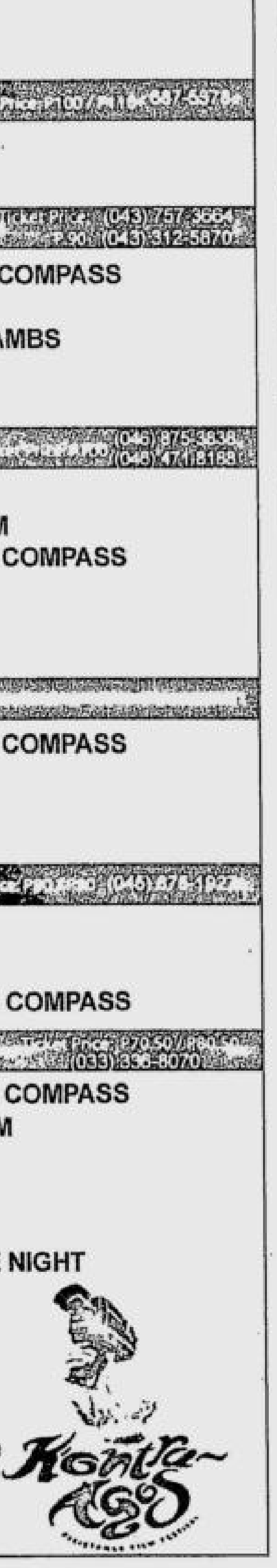

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5

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2 PASUKOB
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3
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4 (GOLD DTS) ENCHANTED
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6 (GOLD SDDS) THE GOLDEN COMPASS
7 (GOLD DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
8 RESERVED
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 BATANES

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3 BATANES

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2 THE GOLDENT COMPASS

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1 (DOLBY EX) THE GOLDENT COMPASS
2 BATANES
3 (DTS EX) PASUKOB
4 GAME PLAN

Centre Plaza Cinema

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1 PASUKOB
2 BATANES

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2 (DOLBY) THE GOLDENT COMPASS
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2 ONE MORE CHANCE

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2 SEX SCANDAL
3 (DTS) BATANES
4 PASUKOB
5 THE GOLDEN COMPASS

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FRED CLAUS G 12:10,2;35,5:00, 7:25,9:50	THE GOLDEN COMPASS PG13 1:40,4;10,6:40,9:10	ENCHANTED G 12:00,2:20,4:50 GOLDEN COMPASS PG13 7:20,9:50
THE KINGDOM R13 12:30,2:55,5;20, 7:45,10:10	EASTERN PROMISES R13 1:10,3:25,5:40, 7:55,10:10	THE GOLDEN COMPASS PG13 12:30,3:00,5;30, 8:00,10:30

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CINEMA 4 THE KINGDOM 11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35 R-13

CINEMA 5 THE GOLDEN COMPASS 10:40 , 1:30 , 4:20 7:10 , 10:00 GP

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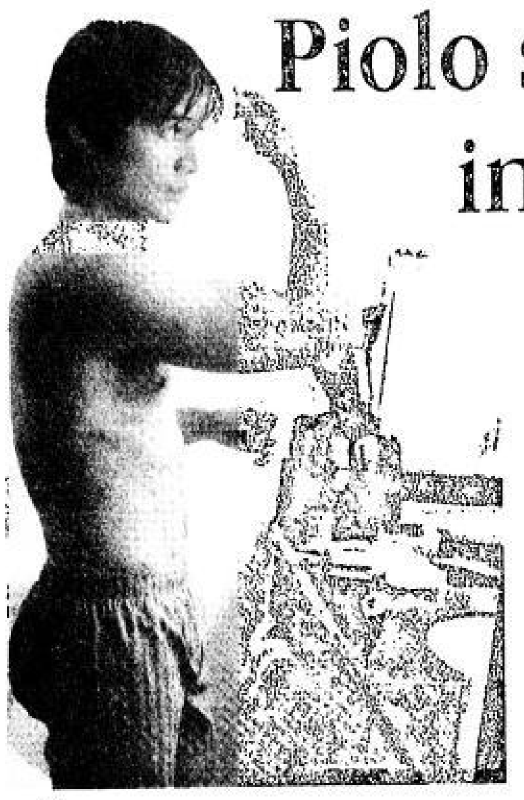
CO-PRODUCER VINCE VAUGHN MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHE BECK EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PAUL HITCHCOCK STORY BY JESSIE NELSON AND DAN FOGELMAN
SCREENPLAY BY DAN FOGELMAN PRODUCED BY JOEL SILVER JESSIE NELSON DAVID DOBKIN DIRECTED BY DAVID DOBKIN

www.fredclausmovie.co.uk

Piolo shares more of himself in pictorial bio



"PIOLO: BELIEVING" IS A PICTORIAL BIOGRAPHY of possibly the country's hottest male star at the moment, Piolo Pascual.

WikiPilipinas.org, the free Pinoy online encyclopedia, recently launched the coffee table book that celebrates Piolo's first 10 years in show biz.

Written by celebrity photographer David Fabros and co-published by San Mig Coffee, Banco de Oro, Sky Travel Luggage and Centrum, the book includes never-before-seen images from Pascual's personal collection—from his childhood, life before show biz, day-to-day life with family and friends.

"Piolo: Believing" is available in softbound and hardbound editions in leading bookstores and magazine outlets nationwide.

Here are some treats from the book.

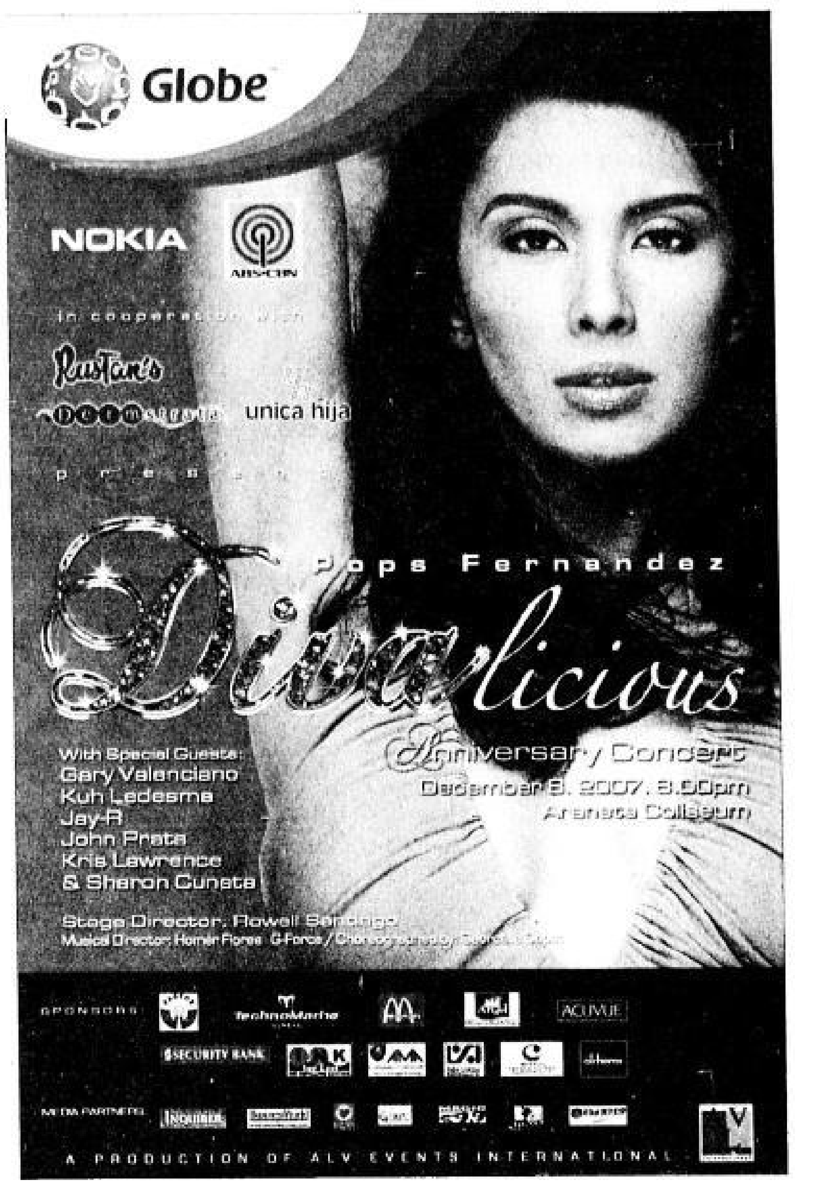
PIOLO with son Inigo

I need eight hours of sleep a day. I'm not vain … I'm just neat and clean. I shower before sleeping. No matter how tired I am, I rest a while and jump in for a quick wash. Then I sleep.

It's not certain where his name came from. It's not the usual name for boys. 'What kind of name is Piolo?' Johnny Manahan asked back in 1997.

I really don't see myself as some big celebrity, I can never get used to the idea.

What people say cannot always be positive:... I look [to] things and people who give me good vibes. The rest of them … I let them be.



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THE KINGDOM	ONE MORE CHANCE	PASUKOB	HITMAN	ENCHANTED
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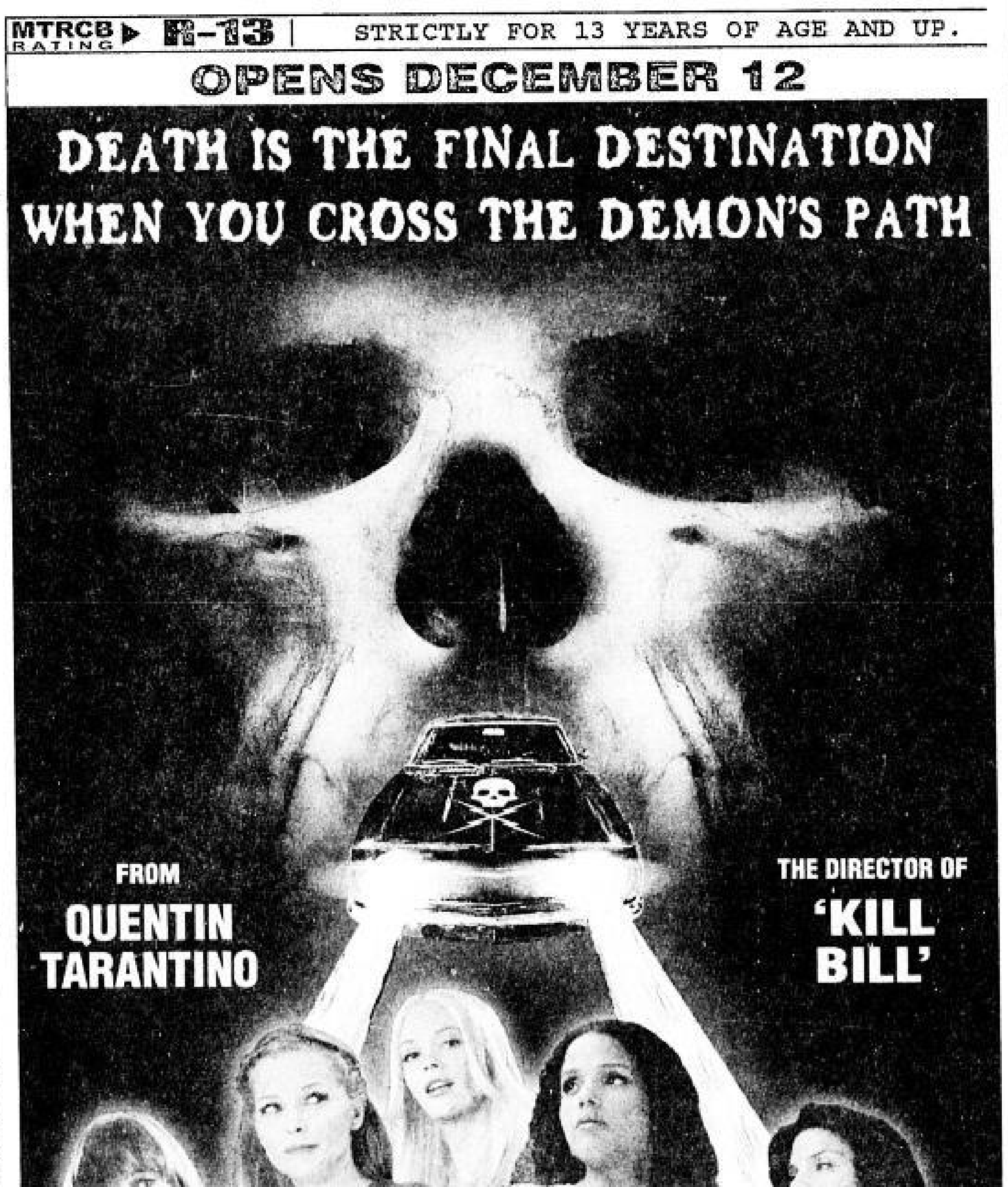

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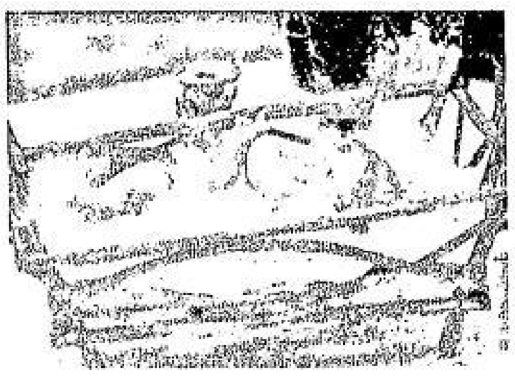
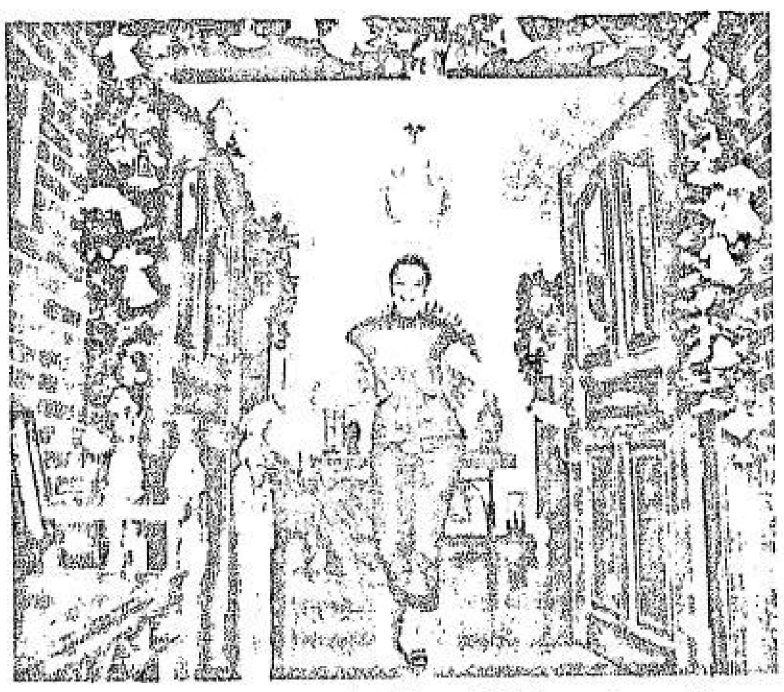
A PIANO was the top item on Danny's wish list, says Gaby.

ANOTHER Yuletide ritual is posing for a family photo for their annual greeting cards.

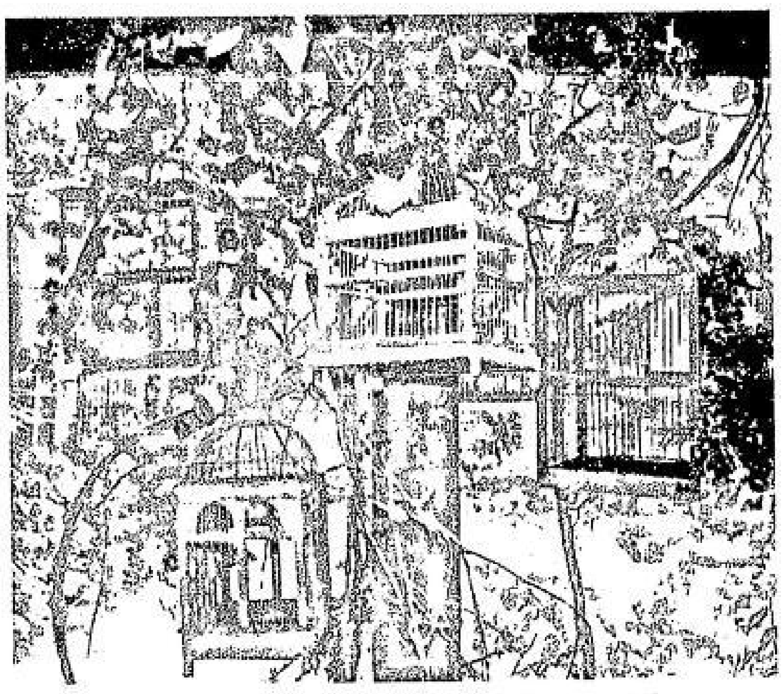


THIS BABY Jesus started a holiday tradition in the Concepcion home.

Tradition *of* good cheer



SHE often opens her home to the "Unang Hirit" team for parties.



FRENCH hens and bird cages for "12 Days of Christmas" theme.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

LAWYER AND "UNANG HIR-it" segment host Gaby Concepcion admits that she doesn't have the time, talent or inclination for home decorating.

Fortunately, she knows two fellow lawyers who are also aspiring interior designers at heart.

Husband Danny, who anchors the dzMM program "Usapang de Campanilla," is largely responsible for the décor, she insists.

He's the one who arranges the many pieces that Gaby finds in different *tiangges*, flea markets and exporters' fairs.

"He knows where exactly to place them. He also designs furniture, like the wood cabinet at the back," she notes.

For this pictorial, Danny personally spruced up the home, installing various potted plants and straightening the paintings and sculpture pieces.

When they first moved in four years ago, the Concepcions had a wish list. "On top of his was a piano. On mine was trellis for the vines."

Suns and dragons

She also loves collecting sun and dragon figures. "The sun is such a mystical and uplifting symbol," she explains. "I collect dragons because I was born in a dragon year."

Two cabinets full of crystal and ceramic dragons stand in the living room. A Tibetan chest and an antique Spanish oil lamp are also emblazoned with dragons.

Good friend Nuel Gatcho is the other lawyer who has turned this Pasig home into a virtual Christmas wonderland.

"He is so talented," Gaby exclaims. "He styles my home for free. He does it out of love and friendship."

She jokingly says that Nuel, who started decorating the house last year, has made it his goal "to confuse me … I'm a creature of habit, but he insists that the décor should look unique every year. He also designs each room differently."

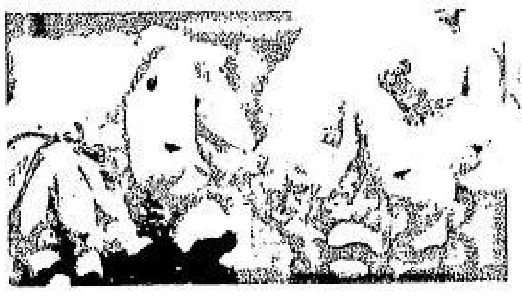
This year, the theme is "Nutcracker Suite."

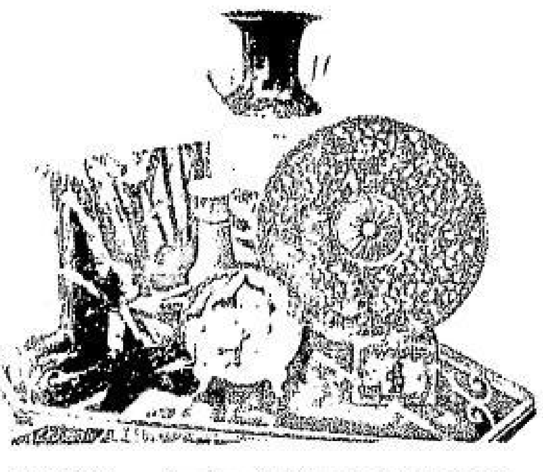
"One part of the house is decorated with teddy bears. The other sections with toy trains, angels, tea cups. The tree is strewn with Santa Claus dolls. The décor in the patio features 'The 12 Days of Christmas'—complete with golden rings, French hens and turtle doves."

The living room archway is Nuel's tribute to Gaby. "He decorated it with my favorite gem: pearls."

Although the décor looks elegant, they ornaments are affordable, she insists. "We found most of the items in Dapitan and Divisoria. We got five boxes of teddy bears for a song."

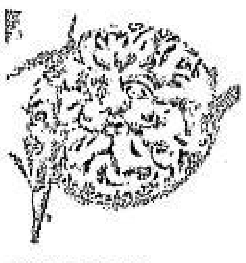
LLADRO *belen* from Spain is adorned with golden balls and poinsettia from Dapitan.



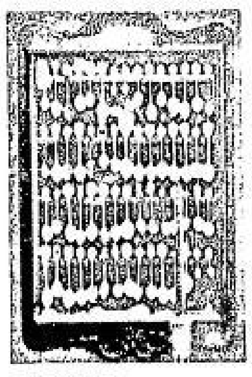


SHEEP from Dapitan (left) and antiques from *tiangges* and export fairs are strewn all over the living room.

TV host Gaby Concepcion's house is now a Christmas wonderland, courtesy of hubby Danny and friend Nuel



"VERSACE" sun from Italy



SPOONS from places they've visited

She is amazed by Nuel's gift. "He can finish a table décor from scratch in 10 minutes. He did the entire house in a day."

That's precisely the concept behind the Spanish-Mediterranean home; it combines old and new, pricey and inexpensive items.

"Mix and match," she says in jest. "Most of our furniture came from my mom's house."

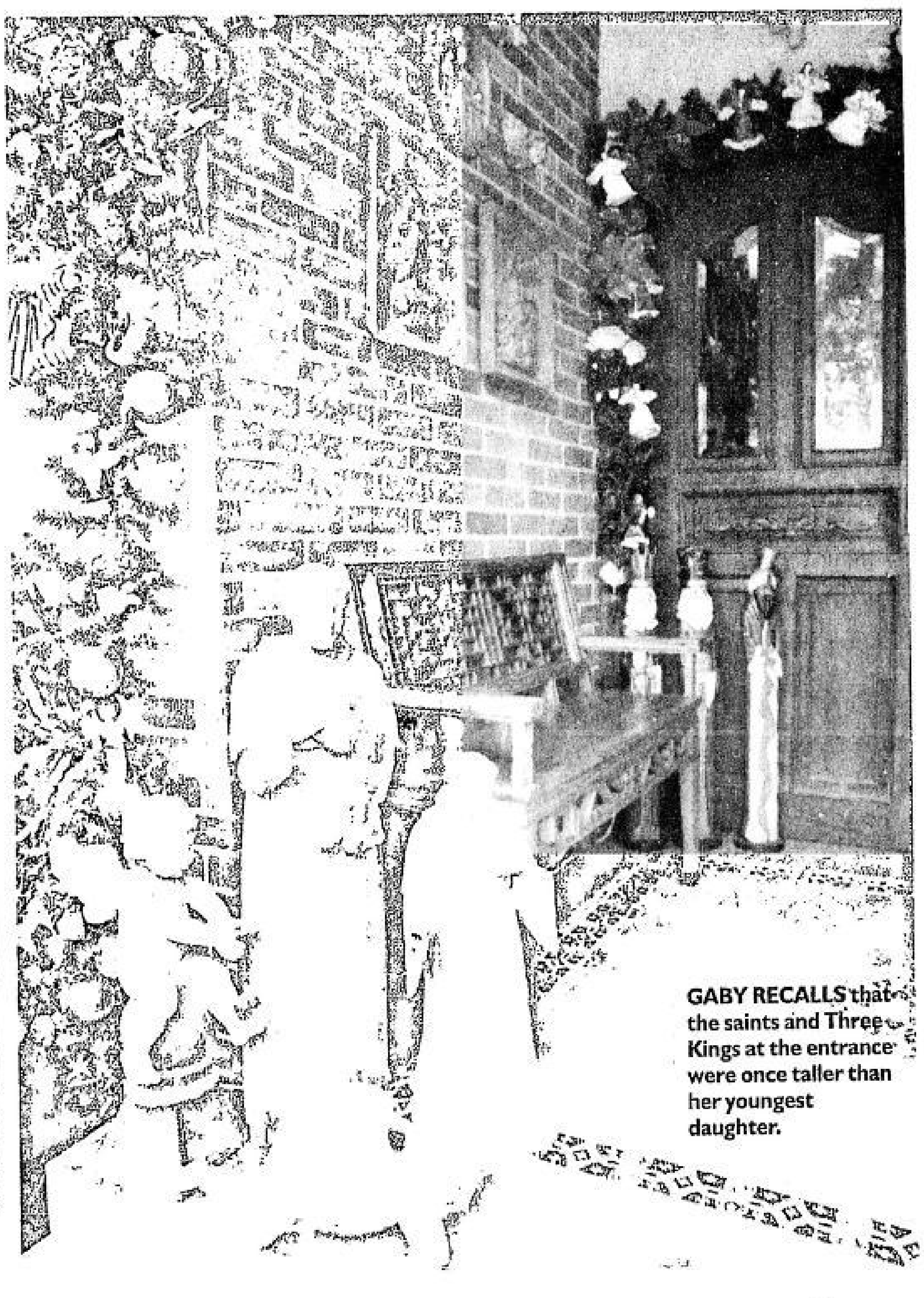
That also holds true of the holiday décor: Nuel combined a Lladro Nativity scene from Spain with golden balls and poinsettia from Dapitan.

Four years ago, Gaby stumbled upon a Baby Jesus in a mall and made it the centerpiece of the holiday setup on their first Noche Buena in the house.

"I want to establish our own Christmas traditions," she clarifies. "My four kids are the youngest on both sides of the family. They're spoiled with toys every holiday season. With these traditions, I want to remind them of the real meaning of Christmas."

Another Yuletide ritual is the annual family portrait pasted on the cards they send to pals.

She says, smiling, "I want our close friends to see our children grow."



GABY RECALLS that the saints and Three Kings at the entrance were once taller than her youngest daughter.

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THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10
PG-13

THE KINGDOM
2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35
R-13

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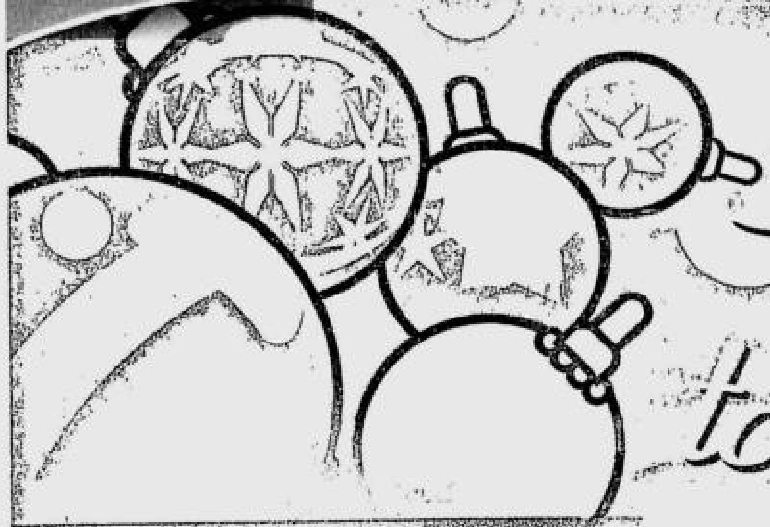

A showcase of gift ideas to make Christmas merrier

WIN this
NISSAN URVAN ESTATE
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Automatic Centre has prepared a Christmas special promo that will make you win a Nissan Urvan Estate furnished with a home entertainment system

60th Christmas Extravaganza

'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING, RECEIVING and rejoicing with the gifts and blessings Christmas brings to every household. Dad has been eyeing a new flat plasma panel display to replace the family's rundown but well-loved flat-screen TV. Mom has set her attention on buying a bigger and energy-efficient ref to accommodate the growing needs of a growing household. The kids, on the other hand, are busy making wish lists that include the latest portable music and video players as well as cellphones that play music and take videos as well.

Oh, for the typical Filipino family, Christmas is the time to celebrate, rejoice and enjoy the blessings that usually come its way during this time. And what more to experience Christmas joys than joining Automatic Centre's Merrier Christmas Season.

Shop at any Automatic Centre, Blims and Sogo Home & Office Centre and for a minimum of P1,000 purchase you can have the chance to win a Nissan Urvan Estate furnished with a home entertainment system that includes a whopping 27-inch LCD flat panel display.

Aside from the one-of-a-kind grand prize, there are 60 more major fabulous prizes that include LCD TVs, home theater systems, La-Z-Y Boys, cellphones, digicams, videocams, portable digital music players, Wow Magic Sing, refs and microwave ovens.

Automatic gives consumers the chance to get that dream appliance and gadget with zero-percent interest through purchases using major credit cards. And there's more, like instant valued freebies to be given away when customers avail of Citibank, Diners and SB Cards and Bankard credit cards installment options. There's also "Santa's Wish," a chance for the customer to win up to P100,000 worth of prizes absolutely free with no purchase whatsoever required. Just choose a dream item and fill the invite with the necessary details. See posters and print ads for details.

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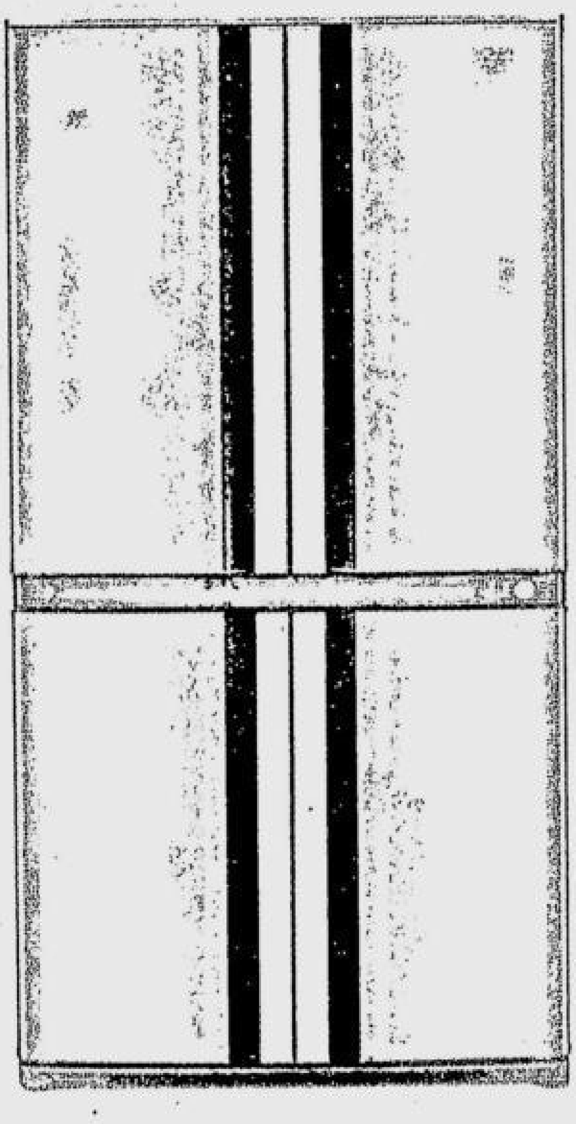

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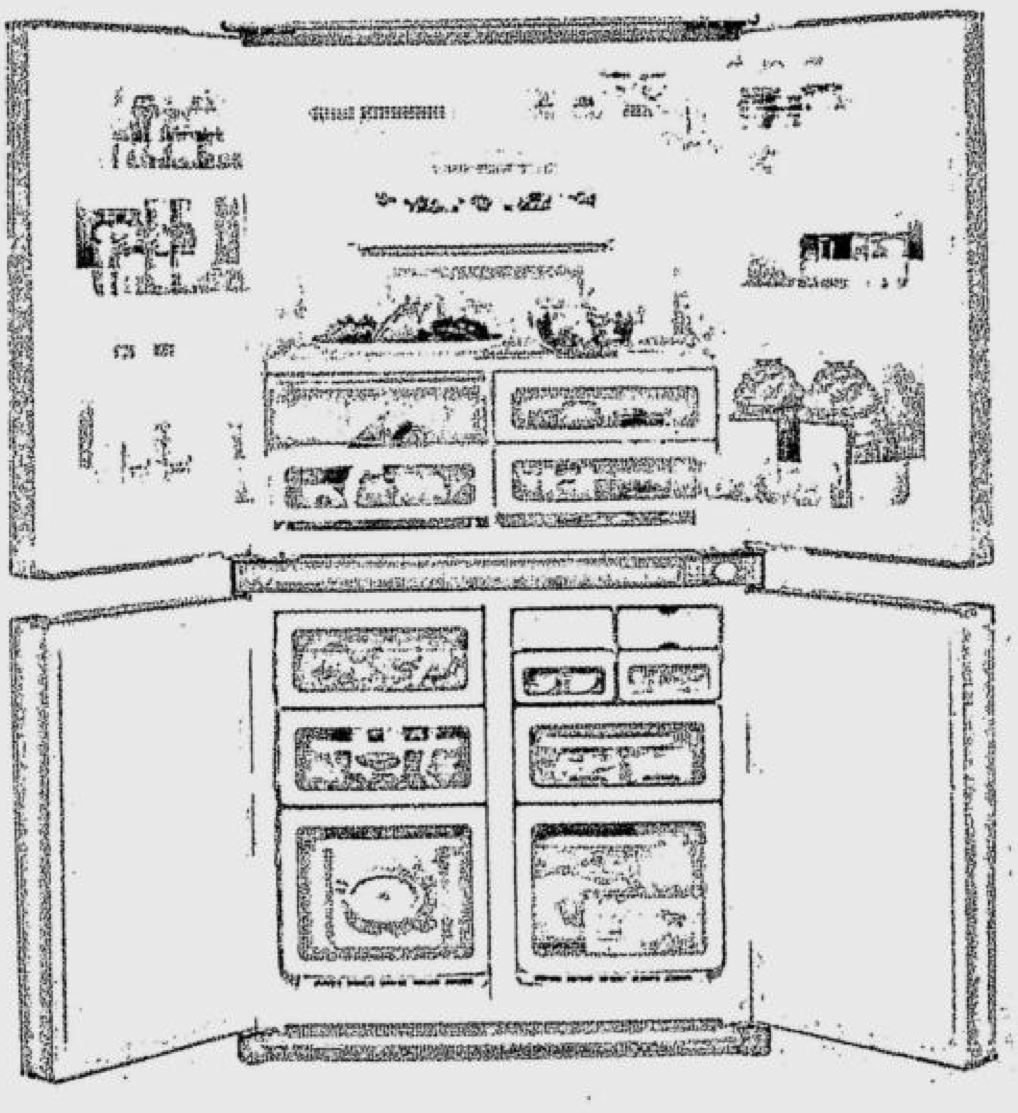

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Promo period: October 26 - December 31, 2007. See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5442. Series of 2007.

Automatic CENTRE

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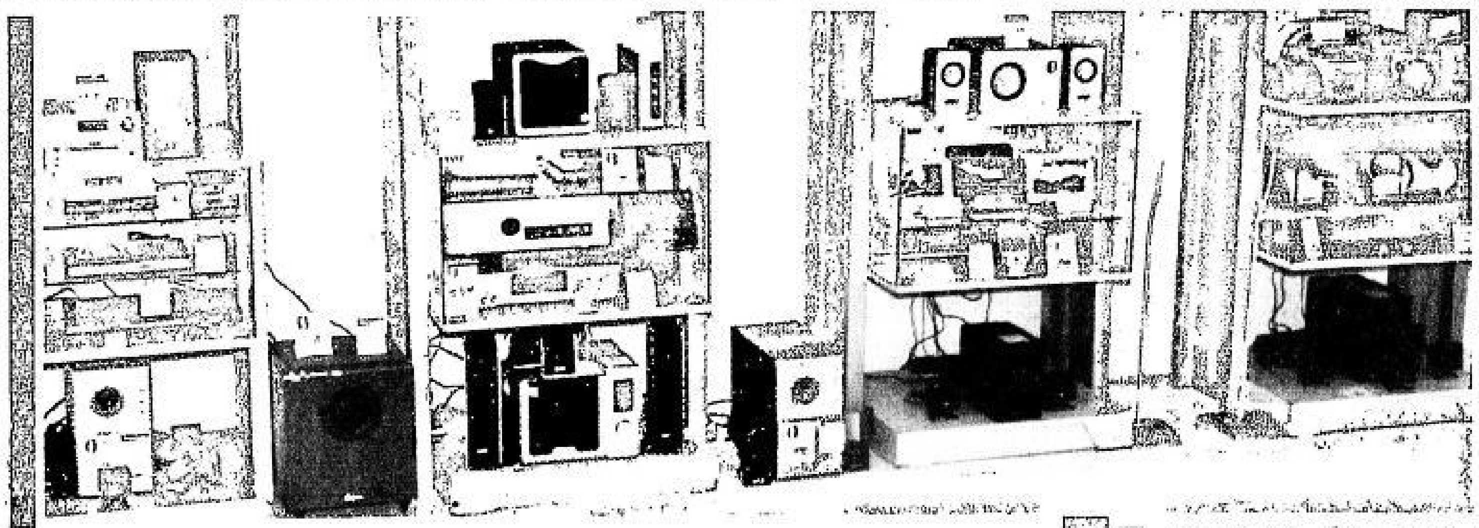


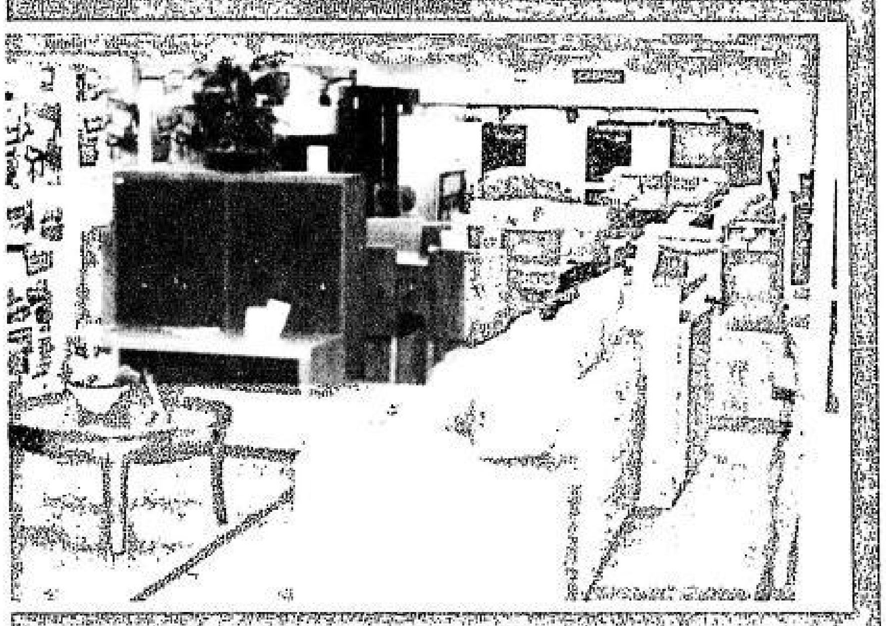
A sumptuous shopping experience from Automatic Super Centre

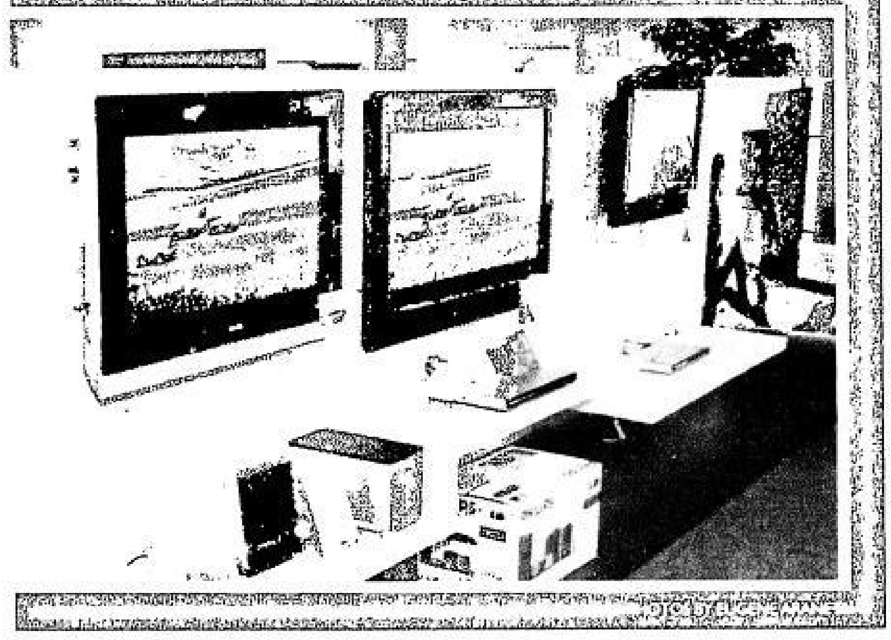
FOR the past 60 years, Automatic Centre has been at the forefront of providing the Filipino family with convenience, satisfaction, happiness, and total entertainment fulfillment at the home front and even beyond. Throughout these years, think about the number of televisions, DVD players, washing machines, refrigerators, tables, beds and the multitude of gadgets, appliances and furniture that have furnished and enlivened Filipino homes and offices. Automatic Centre has truly become part of generations of Filipino families.

This Christmas, Automatic Centre, which has pioneered many firsts in the industry, like bringing together different brands under one roof and introducing ready-to-deliver furniture, offers the ultimate and the widest showcase of gift ideas to make this season of joy merrier to every Filipino household.

Automatic Centre proudly presents its Super Centre in Araneta Center in Cubao, a super big store of appliances, gadgets, furniture that features furnished condominium units, condominium-hotel spaces, bedroom sanctuaries, living room showcases,

SUMPTUOUS/L3





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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5922 Series of 2007

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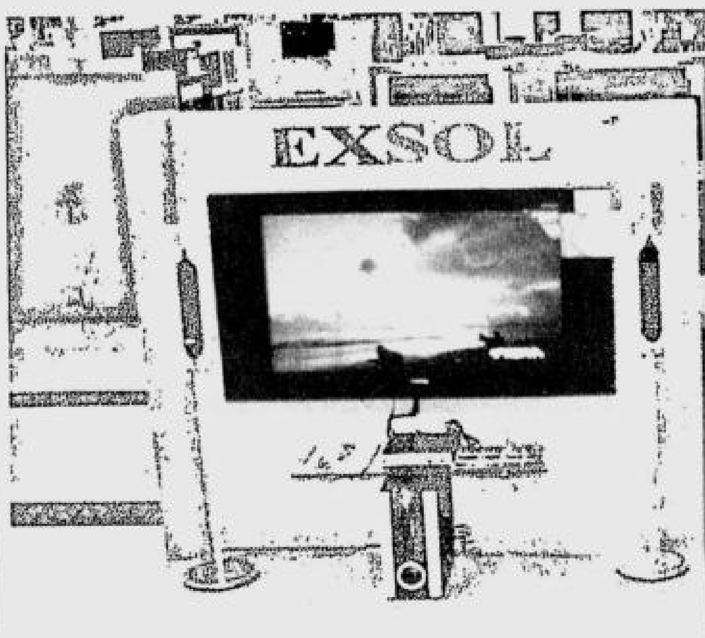

SAMIE Lim, President, Automatic Appliances, Inc.

A sumptuous shopping experience . . .

From page L2

kitchen and dining room setups, and office spaces.

With an 8,000-sqm store space, Automatic Super Centre makes shopping for gifts this Christmas a real treat and a big sumptuous experience not only with these appealing designer concept room layouts. It also offers hundreds of square meters of space to showcase products of different brands like Samsung, Sony, LG, Pioneer, JVC, Whirlpool, ELBA, Panasonic, Philips, among others.

Automatic Center Samie Lim says the concept of the Superstore is to allow customers a "walk through" of the actual rooms they're planning to furnish with gadgets and furniture, thereby making them experience beforehand the items they plan to purchase.

"We have gone beyond displaying items. We are now providing manufacturers with big show room spaces to highlight their products for consumers to see and appreciate," says Lim.

With Automatic Centre's Superstore, every customer that goes through its wide doors are awed by the sheer size and appealing layouts of the gadgets and appliances arranged beautifully with designer concepts. The store divided into sections: gadgets, electronics white goods, condominium layout and room and office showcases upstairs.

Gadgets zone greets Super Centre visitors at the entrance with hundreds of digital cameras, music players, cell phones and other cool devices for the young set. Nokia, Ipods, Sony Ericsson, Motorola, Sony, Kodak, Olympus, Creative—name any gadget and the gadgets zone has it. Next to this cool gadgets zone is an Internet and coffee shop.

A karaoke corner featuring several microphones with karaoke function and a big LCD television is a must visit for Filipinos who love to sing. They can actually sing to their hearts content in this area and can even win a prize for their singing. Lim says the place can even provide an opportunity to discover singing talents.

The Super Centre even features an "entertainment vehicle"—which is a van furnished with 27-inch LCD flat panel TV and other home entertainment systems such as a karaoke to encourage family bonding during long trips.

At the second floor of the store are found different layouts

SUMPTUOUS/ L5

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- Optical Image Stabilizer

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- Optical Image Stabilizer

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- 12.1 Megapixels
- 6x Optical Zoom
- 6.35 cm (2.5") Vari-angle LCD screen
- Optical Image Stabilizer

Php 24,950

PowerShot TX1
- 7.1 Megapixels
- 3.81 cm (1.5") vari-angle LCD screen
- 10x Optical Zoom with Optical Image Stabilizer
- DIGIC III engine

Php 26,995

NEW!
PowerShot S5 IS
- 8.0 Megapixels
- 6.35 cm (2.5") Vari-angle LCD screen
- 12x Optical Zoom
- Optical Image Stabilizer

Php 27,950

NEW!
PowerShot G9
- 12.1 Megapixels
- 7.62 cm (3.0") PureColor LCD II Screen
- 6x Optical Zoom
- Optical Image Stabilizer
- RAW Image Recording

Php 31,950

DIGITAL IXUS
Where style meets substance

I want exceptional images this Christmas.

Digital IXUS 70
- 7.1 Megapixels
- 6.35 cm (2.5") PureColor LCD screen
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Slimmer Body – 19.4 mm

~~Php 19,950~~
Now Php 17,950

Digital IXUS 75
- 7.1 Megapixels
- 7.62 cm (3.0") PureColor LCD screen
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Slimmer Body – 19.6 mm

~~Php 22,500~~
Now Php 19,950

Digital IXUS 950 IS
- 8.0 Megapixels
- 4x Optical Zoom
- 6.35 cm (2.5") Pure Color LCD screen
- Optical Image Stabilizer

Php 26,950

NEW!
Digital IXUS 860 IS
- 8 Megapixels
- 7.62 cm (3.0") PureColor LCD screen
- 3.8x Optical Zoom
- Wide Angle 28-105mm lens

Php 24,950

NEW!
Digital IXUS 960 IS
- 12.1 Megapixels
- 6.35 cm (2.5") PureColor LCD screen
- 3.7x Optical Zoom
- Titanium Body

Php 28,950

Enjoy the Holidays with **FREE ITEMS** worth up to Php 10,000!

FREE ITEMS: camera case, 1GB SD card and 1 pair of Ray-Ban eyewear

METRO MANILA
MANILA:
- Sarabia Optical (SM Mall of Asia)
- The Optical Shop (Robinson's Ermita)
- The Optical Shop (SM Centerpoint)

MAKATI:
- The Optical Shop (G1)
- The Optical Shop (G3)
- Canon Customer Care Centre 5F Marvin Plaza Building 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue Makati City (02) 884-9000

ORTIGAS:
- Sarabia Optical (SM Megamall)
- The Optical Shop (SM Megamall)

NORTH:
- Sarabia Optical (SM North Edsa)
- The Optical Shop (SM North Edsa)
- The Optical Shop (Trinoma)

MANDALUYONG
- Canon Customer Care Centre Liberty Center, Freedom Plaza Retail Row, G/F Unit 1 and 2 Shaw Boulevard (02) 534 7358

SOUTH
- Perez Optical (ATC)
- George Optical (SM Batangas)
- George Optical (SM Dasmarinas)
- Optical Works (SM Southmall)

PROVINCIAL
PAMPANGA:
- George Optical (SM Pampanga)
- Canon Pampanga Office, Pistahan Bldg., Mc Arthur Highway Dolores, City of San Fernando Pampanga (045)961-6496

CEBU:
- The Optical Shop (SM Cebu)
- The Optical Shop (Ayala Center)
- Canon Cebu Office Door 10, 1P & 20 Free Star Arcade, Hernan St.Subangdaku, Mandaue City Cebu (032)345-3821, 3446775, 345-3680

BACOLOD:
- Anglo Optical (SM Bacolod)

DAVAO:
- Chimes Department Store
- Canon Davao Office, 301 E. Palma Gil Bo. Obrero, Davao City (082) 227-4820
- Canon DHub 1st Level South Concourse, Limketkai Mall Agorra Road Lapasan Cagayan De Oro City (088)8563313
- Canon LA UNION Office G/F M. Peralta Bldg. Quezon Ave., Sevilla Norte San Fernando City, La Union (072)242-4587, 242-0440
- Canon Legaspi Office Door 7 & 8 CEA Bldg. Ground Flr. Lapu-Lapu st. Legaspi City (052)820-2083, 480-6331

Redeem your preferred Ray-Ban eyewear at any of the outlets listed below by presenting the following:
1. Original sales invoice
2. Redemption voucher with Ray-Ban hologram
3. Warranty card
4. Cut-portion of digital camera box where the Canon Customer Delight sticker and serial number are located.

Complete requirements are necessary to redeem participating Ray-Ban eyewear.

Ray-Ban eyewear
camera case
1GB SD card
Premium items vary according to model purchased.

SELPHY
COMPACT PHOTO PRINTER

NEW!
SELPHY CP740
- 5.08cm (2") LCD
- Easy to use card slot
- Red eye color correction
- Addition of borderless layouts

Php 7,495

NEW!
SELPHY CP750
- Large 6.35cm (2.4") LCD
- Battery operable
- Easy to use card slot
- Accomodates IrSimple high speed infrared communication

Php 9,500

NEW!
SELPHY ES20
- Dye-sublimation technology
- More creative printouts
- Integrated ink and paper
- My Colors Function
- ID photo printing

Available in November

SELPHY ES1
- Dye-sublimation technology
- Creative printouts (4 sets)
- Integrated ink and paper
- Infrared

Php 15,995

Enjoy up to Php 1,000 worth of freebies. Premium items given vary according to the model purchased.

SELPHY Photo Diary and Scrapbook by KartON
SELPHY bag

Canon ImageNation HOLIDAY!

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2/F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St. Makati City
Tel. 884 9000 Fax 810 9797 • E-mail: info@canon.com.ph or www.canon.com.ph

*Available for credit cards of participating dealers.
Promo runs from October 23, 2007 to January 15, 2008
See catalogue and flyer for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3699, Series of 2007

Automatic CENTRE

Automatic Centre introduces the 'concept stores' in the country

Automatic Centre EDGE at TriNoma

At 60 years old, Automatic Centre is still as vibrant as ever, continuing to introduce innovations and ideas in the realm of how the Filipinos should enjoy their living spaces furnished with modern gadgets and gizmos and trendsetting fixtures and furniture not only at home but at work as well.

Automatic Centre [illegible] appliance [illegible] Filipino families [illegible] appliances and [illegible] convenience [illegible] family members [illegible] together [illegible]

[illegible] Filipino family [illegible] generation, Automatic Centre [illegible] contributed [illegible] the [illegible] black and white portable [illegible] machines [illegible]

[illegible] Automatic Centre has been [illegible] Automatic Centre [illegible] bringing [illegible] concept [illegible] stores [illegible] customers [illegible] shopping experience.

To [illegible] Automatic Centre opened more new concept stores: Automatic Centre G4 at Glorietta Mall, Automatic Centre EDGE in Ayala TriNoma Mall in Quezon City, Automatic Centre in Alabang Town Center in Alabang, and Automatic Centre Ayala in Cebu [illegible] these concept stores and [illegible] the hottest trends in tech [illegible] designs that make you [illegible]

As part of the celebration of its 60th anniversary, Automatic Centre is giving customers the chance to take home a whole range of exciting prizes in time for the Christmas celebration, with its [illegible] promo. Customers [illegible] appliances [illegible] [illegible]

So join in the celebration [illegible] Automatic Centre branch and get the [illegible] appliances and electronics [illegible] any Automatic Centre [illegible] of Santa Rosa City [illegible] worth P10,000 [illegible]

Automatic Centre Digital Plaza at Gateway Mall

Automatic Centre G4 at Glorietta Mall

> As part of the celebration of its 60th anniversary, Automatic Centre is giving customers the chance to take home a whole range of exciting prizes in time for the Christmas celebration, with its extravaganza raffle promo

TODO PAMASKONG BIRIT
FREE W/RELESS microphone!
For every purchase of a package with TKR 300.
Product Highlights:
• Built-in 277 OPM & 1,273 English songs
• Do-It-Yourself picture background • Easy song search, no need for song book • Sing with back-up singers • 10 Song pack slots
TKR 300
~~P 12,500~~
Now only 11,500
save P1,000
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PORTABLE BOX VIDEOKE
Ngayon, mas masarap nang mag-Videoke!
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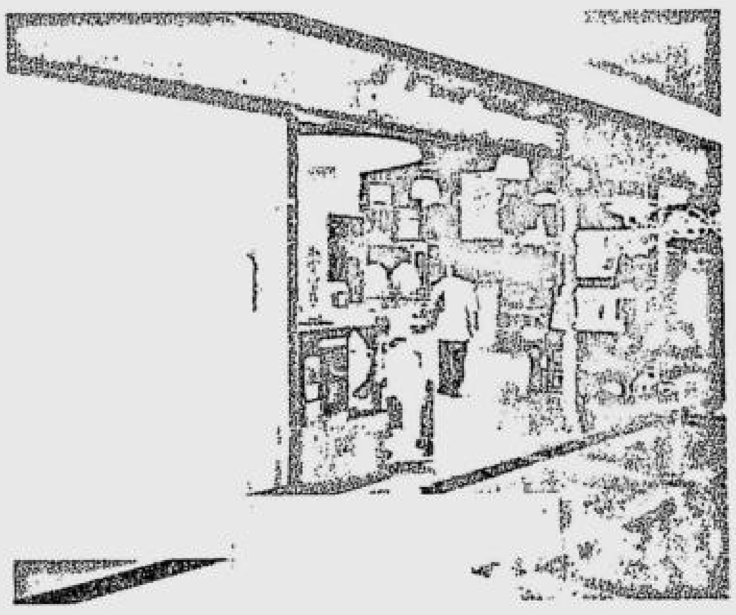
Brighten up your Christmas with HANABISHI®
Shop for quality appliances at light prices.
Available at all leading department stores and appliance centers nationwide.
www.myhanabishi.com

Automatic [illegible]

Automatic Cen[illegible] [illegible] es the concep[illegible] [illegible] uality



TODO PAMASKONG BIRIT
FREE WIRELESS microphone!
For every purchase of a package with TKR 300.
Product Highlights:
- Built-in 277 OPM & 1,273 English songs
- Do-It-Yourself picture background
- Easy song search, no need for song book
- Sing with back-up singers
- 10 Song pack slots

TKR 300
~~P 12,500~~
Now only 11,500
save P1,000

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Ngayon, mas masarap nang mag-Videoke!
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Shop for quality appliances at light prices.

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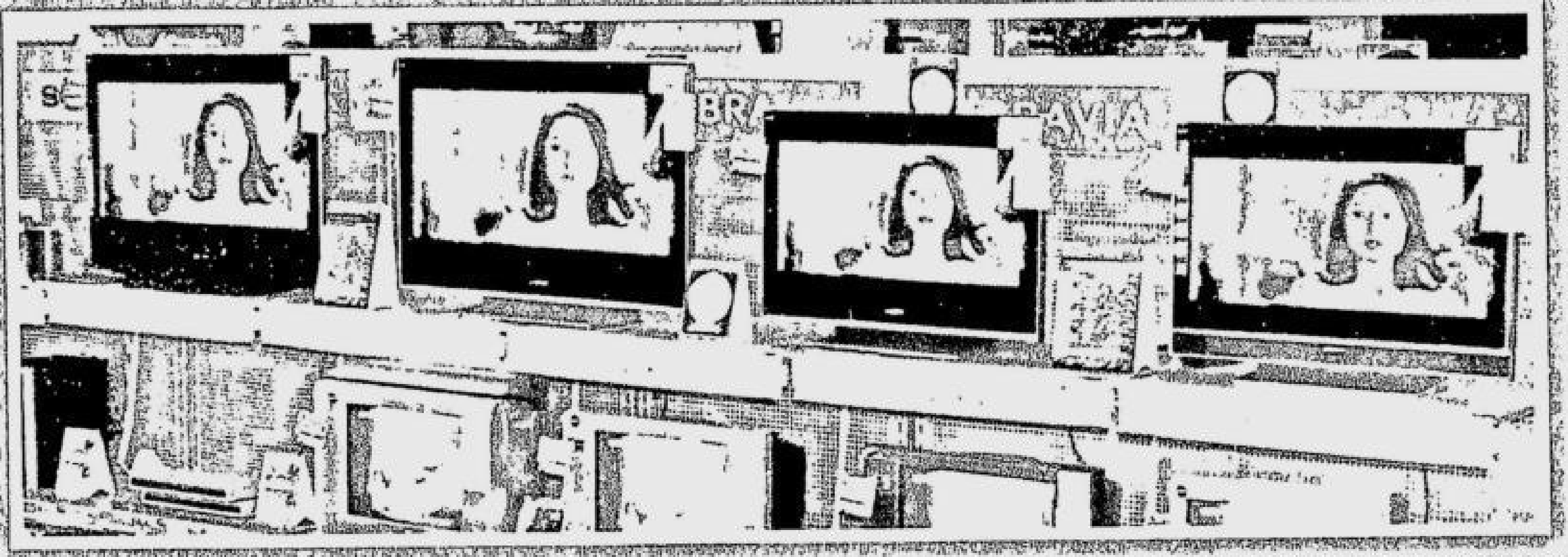
AUDIO / VIDE
LG



A sumptuous shopping experience . . .

From page L3

for the living room, kitchen and dining areas as well as office spaces. The different layouts offer options for the budget-conscious consumers who may want affordable stuff to high-end gadgets and appliances to furnish their homes with. Beside the superb layouts are a showcase of other items where customers can pick to mix and match with the layout they prefer.

There's even a design center where interior designers are at hand to help customers. Then the Filipino products section promotes accessories and handicrafts made here.

Lim says every member of the family has a place to enjoy at the Super Centre. Moms can go to the living room and kitchen showcases, while Dads can opt for the home entertainment showcases or the karaoke section, and the kids can shop at the gadgets zone or the Karaoke area, or just while away time at the coffeeshop.

Lim adds that the Super Centre concept is really to bring "edutainment" to customers. "We educate the people with the new gadgets and we entertain them as well when we allow them to try and let them experience for themselves the gadgets, says Lim.

A wedding theme highlights the appliance layout in another section, with images of weddings and videos of weddings constantly seen on a flat panel television. Lim says the themes help consumers think about the endless possibilities of the functions and convergence of the appliances and gadgets they will purchase and install in their living rooms or bedrooms.

"December is a month of weddings. The showcase with a wedding theme will highlight gadgets and appliances couples can use after the wedding. Through these gadgets, the couple can revisit again and again that memorable moment—like hooking up their digital cameras on TV or uploading videos on the LCD display. We want customers experience and discover the products."

Lim adds that the TV is no longer for watching movies or shows, but for showing memories of life's events, demonstrating the convergence of appliances and gadgets in the home.

According to Lim, Automatic Centre, which was established in 1948, introduced many firsts in the industry. He says Automatic Centre is the first store to put under one roof different appliance brands. Through BLIMS Furniture, Automatic Centre introduced ready-made furniture at home when the practice back then was made to order.

"Today, we're going a step further," says Lim. "We're the first to build fully furnished condominium units—studio unit, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom—inside the Super Centre." Lim says this pioneering idea is to provide new condominium owners with ideas on how to furnish their pads as well as help condominium developers attract more buyers.

Super Centre has a soft opening this December. Its grand inauguration will be in January alongside a spectacular exhibition by 50 condominium developers.

"We do not sell appliances. We provide comfort and convenience to every Filipino family and improve their quality of life."

Christmas Best Buys

42PFL9532/98 Php179,980
42" LCD TV
Cash Php25,000 less
12 months 0% Php10,000 less
18 months 0%

47PFL7422/79 Php169,980
47" LCD TV
Cash Php20,000 less
12 months 0% Free HTS3548W
18 months 0%

42PFL7422/79 Php114,980
42" LCD TV
Cash Php15,000 less
12 months 0% Php5,000 less
18 months 0%

32PFL9432/98 Php94,980
32" LCD TV
Cash Php10,000 less
12 months 0% Php5,000 less
18 months 0%

37PFL7422/79 Php79,980
37" LCD TV
Cash Php10,000 less
12 months 0% Php5,000 less

32PFL7422/79 Php54,980
32" LCD TV
Cash Php5,000 less and Free HTS3010
12 months 0% Php2,000 less and Free HTS3010

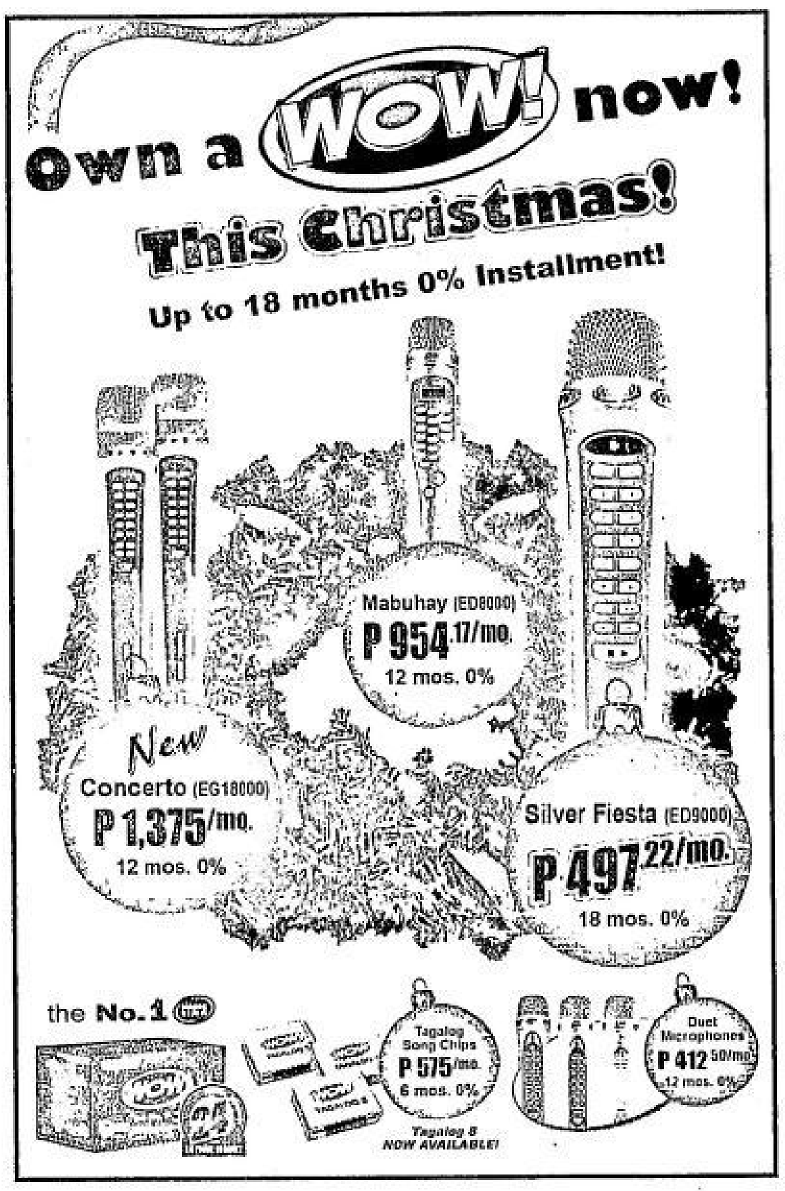
42TA2800/79 Php99,980
42" LCD TV
Cash Php15,000 less
12 months 0% Php7,000 less
18 months 0%

32TA2800/79 Php47,980
32" LCD TV
Cash Free HTS3000
12 months 0% Free HTS3000

Automatic CENTRE

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

Automatic CENTRE


Own a WOW! now!
This Christmas!
Up to 18 months 0% Installment!
Mabuhay (ED8000)
P 954.17/mo.
12 mos. 0%
New
Concerto (EG18000)
P 1,375/mo.
12 mos. 0%
Silver Fiesta (ED9000)
P 497.22/mo.
18 mos. 0%
the No.1
Tagalog Song Chips
P 575/mo.
6 mos. 0%
Tagalog 8 NOW AVAILABLE!
Duet Microphones
P 412.50/mo.
12 mos. 0%

Automatic Centre's ongoing X'mas appliance exhibit at Edsa Central

Automatic Centre, the leader in home appliance exhibits and pioneer in bringing products with the newest technology in the country, is now having an appliance exhibit at Edsa Central from Dec. 1 to 30.

The exhibit features a range of appliances for the living room and the kitchen, including digital cameras and cellphones, from the high-range, mid-level range to the very affordable ones. It is a must-see for shoppers plying the Edsa Central route.

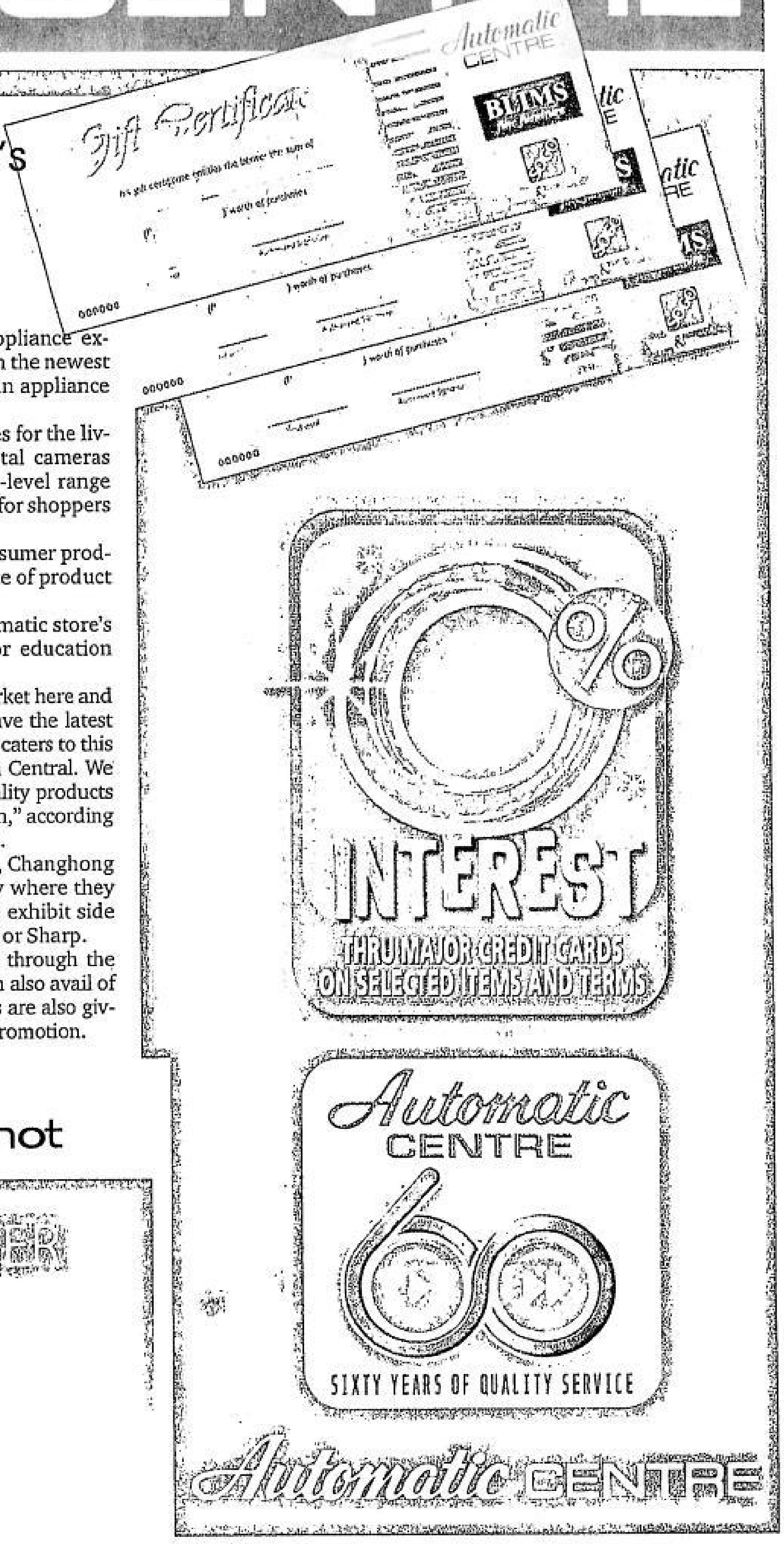
The exhibit brings together branded consumer products which provide customers the assurance of product service and warranty.

The Edsa Central exhibit is part of Automatic store's main thrust of bringing "edutainment" or education and entertainment to all levels of people.

"We realized that there's an enormous market here and we want to let the people know that we have the latest brands in appliances and a product mix that caters to this particular market or people who go to Edsa Central. We have top brands from China and Korea, quality products that carry prices people won't shy away from," according to Samie Lim, president of Automatic Centre.

Lim refers to product lines such as Akira, Changhong and Konka, giant brands from the country where they come from and are enjoying spaces in the exhibit side by side with Japanese brands such as Sony or Sharp.

Appliances on exhibit can be purchased through the use of the major credit cards. Customers can also avail of zero percent credit card purchases. Freebies are also given away as part of some of the credit cards promotion.


Gift Certificate
Automatic CENTRE
BLIMS
0% INTEREST
THRU MAJOR CREDIT CARDS
ON SELECTED ITEMS AND TERMS
Automatic CENTRE
60
SIXTY YEARS OF QUALITY SERVICE
Automatic CENTRE

SONY
Cyber-shot
Capture every supermodel smile with SMILE SHUTTER
SUPER MODEL
Smile Shutter
CLICKS ONLY WHEN YOU SMILE
Full HD
1080
DSC-T200
SRP P34,999
SRP P32,999
SRP P30,999
battery life
Visit our new website at www.sony.com.ph
CCC (02) 878-7600
0917-8077669
Grab exciting freebies and additional discounts!
Gear Up
Your Cyber-Shot!
SONY
Grab the best deals in Tinsel Town this season with unbeatable offers and solutions like no other!
PROMO PERIOD: NOVEMBER 16 2007 TO JANUARY 20 2008 See catalog for more details.
Christmas Treasures 2007
METRO MANILA - Trinoma North Edsa - Nov 24-30 - Gateway Mall - Nov 24-30 - Alabang Town Center - Dec 1-7 - Festival Mall - Dec 9-15 - Shangri-la Mall - Dec 10-16 - Glorietta Makati - Dec 17-23 - Robinsons Manila - Dec 17-23 - SM North Edsa - Dec 20-26 - SM Mall of Asia - Dec 20-26
LUZON - SM Marilao - Nov 21-27 - SM Lipa - Nov 29-Dec 5 - Pacific Mall Legaspi - Dec 7-15 - CSI Mall Dagupan - Dec 8-14
VISAYAS - Ayala Center Cebu - Nov 26-Dec 2 - SM Iloilo - Nov 30-Dec 6 - BQ Mall Bohol - Dec 5-11 - SM Bacolod - Dec 10-16 - Real Food Centrum Tacloban - Dec 14-22
MINDANAO - KCC Mall Gen San - Nov 20-29 - Limketkai Mall CDO - Dec 1-13 - Gaisano Mall Davao - Dec 14-20
10 ANNIVERSARY
like.no.other

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
3rd Level, Alabang Town Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 8095981, 8096076
Telefax : 8095562

FESTIVAL MALL
Level, Festival Super Mall
Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 8503537, 8503539
Telefax : 8503534

LAS PIÑAS
2/F, SM Southmall, Las Piñas City
Tel. Nos. : 8004724, 8005316
Telefax : 8004725

GREENBELT
G/F, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel. Nos. : 7503316, 8936543-44
Fax no. : 8160702

GLORIETTA
Level 3, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center,
Makati City
Tel nos. : 7296450-51
Telefax : 7296452

MARKETI MARKETI
Level 3, Marketl Marketl
Bonifacio global City, Taguig City
Tel. Nos. : 7582552, 8896429
Telefax ; 7582553

GREENHILLS
G/F, Greenhills Shopping Center
Ortigas Ave., San Juan M.M.
Tel. Nos. : 7051379 or 89
Telefax : 7051382

ORTIGAS HOME DEPOT
Level 1 & 2, Ortigas Home Depot
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
Tel nos. : 6354674, 6359026
Telefax : 6359010

HK Sun Plaza
8001 Financial Center Area
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. No. 556-2028

CEBU
3rd Level, Ayala Center
Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. : (032) 2321001-02
Telefax : (032) 2321090

GALLERIA
Level 3, Expansion Mall,
Robinsons Galleria
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. : 6320672-73
Telefax : 6363181

EDSA SHAW
G/F, Edsa Central Shopping Terminal
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. : 6830722, 6830547
Telefax : 6830654

PIONEER
2nd Level, Robinsons Place Pioneer
Edsa cor. Pioneer St., Mandaluyong city
Tel. Nos. : 6871088, 7473146
Telefax : 7473145

CUBAO
Gen. McArthur Ave., Araneta Center
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. : 4216317, 4216319
Telefax no.: 4216320
Automatic Super Centre
Araneta Center
Tel. Nos.: 437-9088, 437-5688

GATEWAY MALL
3rd Level, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. : 9134642, 9134573
Telefax : 9134505

NORTH EDSA
G/F, SM City North Edsa, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. : 9276747, 9276763
Telefax : 9276752

TRINOMA MALL
3rd Level, M3 Trinoma Mall
North Ave., Quezon City
Tel. Nos. : 9169715-16, 9169116

TUTUBAN
G/F, Tutuban Centermall
C.M. Recto Ave., Manila
Tel. Nos. : 2510381-82, 2532029
Telefax : 2510384

Home & Office Ce

ALI MALL
G/F, Ali Mall
P. Tuazon, Araneta Center
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. : 9126601, 9126603-04
Telefax : 9126606/9115772

ROBINSONS METROEAST
Level 4, Robinsons Metro East
Marcos Highway, Dela Paz, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.

EDSA CENTRAL
Level 2, Edsa Central Pavilion
Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. : 6343134, 6370568
Telefax : 6345807

TUTUBAN
2/F, Tutuban Centermall
C.M. Recto Ave., Manila
Tel. Nos. : 2528165
Telefax : 2304185

ZABARTE
2nd Level, Zabarte Town Center
Zabarte Road, North Caloocan City
Tel. Nos. : 9624185
Telefax : 9624186

GLORIETTA
2nd Level, Glorietta 1
Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel. Nos. : 8672352
Telefax : 8672353